

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SMEY
R 00

L.D. 687

Date: 6/1/17 Majority

(Filing No. H- 382)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 478, L.D. 687, Bill, "An Act Regarding Reimbursement for Speech and Language Pathology Services"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Regarding Reimbursement for Speech and Language Pathology Services'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to increase MaineCare reimbursement rates. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 109 to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology services provided by an agency to no less than 69% of the federal Medicare reimbursement rate for these services as long as the rate is no lower than the rate reimbursed as of January 1, 2017; and be it further

Sec. 2. Independent rates. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 109 to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology services provided by an independent speech-language pathologist to 90% of the agency rate established in section 1 as long as the rate is no lower than the rate reimbursed as of January 1, 2017; and be it further

Sec. 3. Speech-language pathology assistant agency rates. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 109 to reimburse services provided by an agency speech-language pathology assistant for treatment within a group of 2 or more individuals at 69% of the federal Medicare reimbursement rate for the same service provided by a speech-language pathologist; and be it further

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R.O.F.S

1 **Sec. 4. Speech-language pathology assistant independent rates. Resolved:**
2 That, no later than January 1, 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services shall
3 amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 109 to
4 reimburse services provided by an independent speech-language pathology assistant for
5 treatment within a group of 2 or more individuals at 90% of the agency rate established in
6 section 3 as long as the rate is no lower than the rate reimbursed as of January 1, 2017.
7 Services provided by independent speech-language pathology assistants for individual
8 treatment must be reimbursed at 90% of the agency rate reimbursed as of January 1,
9 2017; and be it further

10 **Sec. 5. Routine technical rules. Resolved:** That rules adopted pursuant to this
11 resolve are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,
12 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; and be it further

13 **Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
14 appropriations and allocations are made.

15 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

16 **Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147**

17 Initiative: Provides appropriations and allocations for increased reimbursement of certain
18 speech and language pathology services currently provided under Chapter 101:
19 MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 109, Speech and Hearing Services.

20	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
21	All Other	\$182,457	\$182,509
22			
23	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$182,457	\$182,509

24	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2017-18	2018-19
25	All Other	\$329,345	\$329,294
26			
27	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$329,345	\$329,294

28
29 **SUMMARY**

30 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill with
31 a resolve. The amendment sets the reimbursement rates for speech and language
32 pathology services provided by an agency under Department of Health and Human
33 Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 109 at 69%
34 of the federal Medicare rate as long as the reimbursement rate is no lower than the current
35 rate. It establishes that services provided by independent speech-language pathologists
36 are set at 90% of the reimbursement rate for agencies. The amendment also establishes
37 reimbursement rates for agency speech-language pathology assistants for group therapy at
38 69% of the federal Medicare rate for equivalent services for speech-language pathologists
39 since there is no established Medicare rate for assistants. Rates for agency assistants

ROTH

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 478, L.D. 687

1 providing individual therapy do not change from the rate reimbursed as of January 1,
2 2017. Independent speech-language pathology assistant reimbursement rates are set at
3 90% of the agency rates for assistants. The amendment also adds an appropriations and
4 allocations section.

5 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

6 (See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 687

LR 1156(02)

An Act Regarding Reimbursement for Speech and Language Pathology Services

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-382)

Fiscal Note

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$182,457	\$182,509	\$182,509	\$182,509
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$182,457	\$182,509	\$182,509	\$182,509
Federal Expenditures Fund	\$329,345	\$329,294	\$329,294	\$329,294
Revenue				
Federal Expenditures Fund	\$329,345	\$329,294	\$329,294	\$329,294

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$182,457 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$182,509 in fiscal year 2018-19 for increased reimbursement of certain speech and language pathology services currently provided under Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 109, Speech and Hearing Services. Federal Expenditures Fund allocations will also be required for the FMAP match.