

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 687

H.P. 478

House of Representatives, February 28, 2017

**An Act Regarding Reimbursement for Speech and Language
Pathology Services**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: FULLER of Lewiston, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, PIERCE of Falmouth.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-ZZ** is enacted to read:

3 **§3174-ZZ. Speech and language pathology services reimbursement**

4 The department shall provide for reimbursement under the MaineCare program for all
5 speech and language pathology services provided by an independent speech-language
6 practitioner at the rate that is paid to a speech and hearing agency for the same services.
7 For purposes of this section, "speech and hearing agency" means a facility that offers both
8 speech and language pathology services and audiology services by qualified professional
9 staff who are employees of the speech and hearing agency. The department shall adopt
10 rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
11 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

12 **Sec. 2. MaineCare Benefits Manual.** The Department of Health and Human
13 Services shall amend the rules regarding reimbursement for speech and language
14 pathology services under Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section
15 109, Speech and Hearing Services to increase by 10% the rates of reimbursement for all
16 speech and language pathology services.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for
19 reimbursement for all speech and language pathology services provided by an
20 independent speech-language practitioner at the rate that is paid to a speech and hearing
21 agency for the same services. It also directs the department to amend its rules to increase
22 by 10% the rates of reimbursement for all speech and language pathology services.