

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 581, L.D. 801, Bill, "An Act To Allow a Physical Therapist To Administer Certain Coagulation Tests in a Patient's Home"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the need for home care medical services is rapidly increasing as Maine's population ages and the prevalence of chronic conditions increases; and

Whereas, providing health services in the home keeps people out of more costly institutional settings and allows people to live at home for as long as it is safe and practical for them to do so; and

Whereas, home health care services are provided by collaborative teams of nurses, therapists, aides and others and the industry is facing critical workforce challenges; and

Whereas, physical therapists who are already visiting patients in their homes have more than adequate education to perform finger stick blood tests to assess blood clotting levels, and allowing them to perform these tests will save the expense of sending nurses to the patients' homes to perform these tasks; and

Whereas, delaying the effective date of this bill will add to the financial and workforce challenges faced by the home health care industry; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Amend the bill in section 1 in the first paragraph in the last line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "that person," the following: "If a person licensed as a physical therapist performs a finger stick blood test pursuant to this section, that

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1 person shall communicate the test results to the prescribing health care practitioner. Only
2 the health care practitioner may interpret the test results, determine whether a change is
3 needed in the person's plan of care and make decisions with respect to medication
4 adjustments.'

5 Amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

6 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
7 legislation takes effect when approved.'

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This amendment adds an emergency preamble and adds to the provisions of the bill
10 by clarifying that a licensed physical therapist must communicate the results of a finger
11 stick blood test to a health care practitioner, who will interpret the test results, determine
12 whether a change is needed in the person's plan of care and make decisions with respect
13 to medication adjustments.