

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 722

S.P. 280

In Senate, February 16, 2023

**An Act to Expedite the Health Insurance Referral Process for
Specialists by Allowing Referrals from Urgent Care Facilities**

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative: PRINGLE of Windham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4303, sub-§22-A** is enacted to read:

3 **22-A. Denial of referral by provider prohibited; urgent care facility.** A carrier
4 may not deny payment for any health care service covered under an enrollee's health plan
5 provided by a specialist based solely on the basis that the enrollee's referral was not made
6 by the enrollee's primary care provider as long as the referral is made by a provider
7 employed at an urgent care facility. A carrier may not apply a deductible, coinsurance or
8 copayment greater than the applicable deductible, coinsurance or copayment that would
9 apply to the same health care service if the service was referred by the enrollee's primary
10 care provider. A carrier may require a provider employed by an urgent care facility making
11 a referral to provide additional information necessary to implement this subsection.

12 **Sec. 2. Application.** The requirements of this Act apply to all policies, contracts
13 and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State
14 on or after January 1, 2024. For purposes of this Act, all policies, contracts and certificates
15 are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill prohibits a health insurance carrier from denying payment for any health care
18 service covered under an enrollee's health plan provided by a specialist based solely on the
19 basis that the enrollee's referral was not made by the enrollee's primary care provider as
20 long as the referral is made by a provider employed at an urgent care facility. The
21 requirements apply beginning January 1, 2024.