

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

September 25, 1981

AND

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

December 9, 1981

AND

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

January 6, 1982 to April 13, 1982

AND AT THE

FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

April 28, 1982 to April 29, 1982

AND AT THE

FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

May 13, 1982

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

J.S. McCarthy Co.
Augusta, Maine
1981

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
SECOND AND THIRD SPECIAL SESSIONS

and

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

and

FOURTH AND FIFTH SPECIAL SESSIONS

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

1981

red, for hospital inpatient or outpatient care, physicians' services, dentists' services, drugs, appliances and other related services, including skilled nursing home care as defined by the department and as determined by the department to be necessary, cannot be met from their own or other sources, when those costs are of such magnitude as to constitute a financial catastrophe for those families or individuals, or when it can be determined that medical indigency exists.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3185, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 714, §5, is amended by adding after the first sentence a new sentence to read:

Eligible dentists' services shall be limited to: Acute care directly related to an accident; and oral surgical and related medical procedures not involving dentition and gingiva.

Effective July 13, 1982.

CHAPTER 666

H.P. 1790 - L.D. 1780

AN ACT to Eliminate the Requirement that Changes in the Public Utility Rates be Prorated.

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

35 MRSA §66, first sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1981, c. 469, §13, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

It is unlawful for any public utility to charge, demand, collect or receive a greater or less compensation, except as otherwise provided in section 103, for any service performed by it within the State or for any service in connection therewith, than is specified in such printed schedules as may at the time be in force, or to demand, collect or receive any rate, toll or charge not specified in the schedules, except that when a public utility changes its rates, tolls or charges pursuant to any provision of this Title, the commission may, for billing purposes, order that

the change be applied to all service reflected in meter readings on or after the effective date of the change, or to such other period as it deems just and reasonable.

Effective July 13, 1982.

CHAPTER 667

S.P. 743 - L.D. 1746

AN ACT to Establish a Small Claims Court.

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §§7461-7475, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 700, §4, are repealed.

Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §§7481-7485 are enacted to read:

§7481. Small Claims Act; jurisdiction

There is established a small claims proceeding for the purpose of providing a simple, speedy and informal court procedure for the resolution of small claims. It shall be an alternative, not an exclusive, proceeding. The District Court shall have jurisdiction of small claims actions. The District Court shall have the power to grant monetary and equitable relief in these actions. Equitable relief is limited to orders to return, reform, refund, repair or rescind.

§7482. Definition of a small claim

A "small claim" means a right of action cognizable by a court if the debt or damage does not exceed \$1,000 exclusive of interest and costs. It shall not include an action involving the title to real estate.

§7483. Venue

A small claim shall be brought in the division of the District Court where the transaction occurred, where the defendant resides, where the defendant has a place of business or, if the defendant is a corporation or partnership,