

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**November 28, 1995 to December 1, 1995**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 3, 1996 to April 4, 1996**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JULY 4, 1996**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1995**

state residents who, prior to the legal work, had been receiving general assistance or Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits to become qualified to receive federally funded disability benefits.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

Effective March 25, 1996, unless otherwise indicated.

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## CHAPTER 561

### S.P. 38 - L.D. 68

#### **An Act to Make Available Coverage for Mental Health Services Provided by Counseling Professionals Who Are Licensed to Assess and Treat Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Problems**

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

**Sec. 1.** 24 MRSA §2303, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

**5. Mental health services provided by counseling professionals.** A nonprofit hospital or medical service organization that issues individual or group health care contracts providing coverage for mental health services shall offer coverage for those services when performed by a counseling professional who is licensed by the State pursuant to Title 32, chapter 119 to assess and treat interpersonal and intrapersonal problems, has at least a masters degree in counseling or a related field from an accredited educational institution and has been employed as a counselor for at least 2 years. Any contract providing coverage for the services of counseling professionals pursuant to this subsection may be subject to any reasonable limitations, maximum benefits, coinsurance, deductibles or exclusion provisions applicable to overall benefits under the contract. This subsection applies to all contracts executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after January 1, 1997. For purposes of this subsection, all contracts are deemed renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

**Sec. 2.** 24-A MRSA §2744, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

**3. Mental health services provided by counseling professionals.** An insurer that issues individual health care contracts providing coverage for mental health services shall offer coverage for those

services when performed by a counseling professional who is licensed by the State pursuant to Title 32, chapter 119 to assess and treat interpersonal and intrapersonal problems, has at least a masters degree in counseling or a related field from an accredited educational institution and has been employed as a counselor for at least 2 years. Any contract providing coverage for the services of counseling professionals pursuant to this section may be subject to any reasonable limitations, maximum benefits, coinsurance, deductibles or exclusion provisions applicable to overall benefits under the contract. This subsection applies to all contracts executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after January 1, 1997. For purposes of this subsection, all contracts are deemed renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

**Sec. 3.** 24-A MRSA §2835, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

**3. Mental health services provided by counseling professionals.** An insurer that issues group health care contracts providing coverage for mental health services shall make available coverage for those services when performed by a counseling professional who is licensed by the State pursuant to Title 32, chapter 119 to assess and treat interpersonal and intrapersonal problems, has at least a masters degree in counseling or a related field from an accredited educational institution and has been employed as a counselor for at least 2 years. Any contract providing coverage for the services of counseling professionals pursuant to this section may be subject to any reasonable limitations, maximum benefits, coinsurance, deductibles or exclusion provisions applicable to overall benefits under the contract. This subsection applies to all contracts executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after January 1, 1997. For purposes of this subsection, all contracts are deemed renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 562

### H.P. 952 - L.D. 1341

#### **An Act to Limit the Use of Certificates of Participation**

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

**Sec. 1.** 5 MRSA §1588, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 92, §8, is amended to read: