

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 2, 1998 to June 19, 1999**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 18, 1999**

**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**  
**1999**

Provides funds for the federal share of the increase in the reimbursement for chiropractic manipulation services under the Medicaid program.

speech and hearing centers by 18% over current Medicaid rates.

See title page for effective date.

; and be it further

**PART B**

**Sec. B-1. Increase in reimbursement rates. Resolved:** That the Department of Human Services shall adopt rules to increase the reimbursement rates for speech and hearing center services under the Medicaid program beginning November 1, 1999. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A; and be it further

**Sec. B-2. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Part.

	1999-00	2000-01
<b>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
<b>Medical Care - Payments to Providers</b>		
All Other	\$35,100	\$36,300
Provides for the appropriation of funds for the state share of the costs of increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for speech and hearing centers by 18% over current Medicaid rates.		

; and be it further

**Sec. B-3. Allocation. Resolved:** That the following funds are allocated from the Federal Expenditures Fund to carry out the purposes of this Part.

	1999-00	2000-01
<b>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
<b>Medical Care - Payments to Providers</b>		
All Other	\$68,900	\$71,200
Provides for the allocation of funds for the federal share of the costs of increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for		

**CHAPTER 77**

**H.P. 1593 - L.D. 2241**

**Resolve, to Modify the State Valuation for the City of Westbrook and the Town of Livermore Falls for Purposes of Education Funding**

**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 value of property within a municipality has a strong effect on the calculation of school appropriations; and

Whereas, the City of Westbrook derives a large portion of its tax valuation from the presence of the former S.D. Warren plant, now owned by Sappi Fine Paper North America; and

Whereas, Sappi Fine Paper North America has recently announced the closure of its pulp mill and a machine that makes coated base paper at the facility in the City of Westbrook; and

Whereas, not only will this closure adversely affect approximately 315 employees, but also the property valuation of the plant has decreased immensely, causing a decrease in property tax revenues for the City of Westbrook; and

Whereas, unless immediate action is taken to account for this decrease in valuation, the City of Westbrook will also suffer through the loss of significant revenues based on the decreased valuation of the Sappi Fine Paper North America plant; and

Whereas, the Town of Livermore Falls derives a large portion of its tax valuation from the presence of the property of Northeast Empire Limited Partnership; and

Whereas, the Town of Livermore Falls has granted an abatement to Northeast Empire Limited Partnership that results in a substantial loss in tax base for the 1999 tax year; and

Whereas, this situation results in a significant and unanticipated burden on the property taxpayers in the Town of Livermore Falls, especially with regard to education funding; 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, be it

**Sec. 1. Modify 1999 state valuations. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, the 1999 state valuation for the City of Westbrook, for the purposes of calculating school appropriations, must be based on a valuation that values the property of Sappi Fine Paper North America in the City of Westbrook at \$140,000,000; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Modify 1999 state valuations. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, the 1999 state valuation for the Town of Livermore Falls, for the purposes of calculating school appropriations, must be based on a valuation that values the property of Northeast Empire Limited Partnership in the Town of Livermore Falls at \$23,809,523; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Transfer. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the close of fiscal year 1998-99, the State Controller shall transfer to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools account in the Department of Education from the available balance in the General Fund after the deduction of all appropriations, financial commitments or other designated funds an amount up to \$795,100 of lapsed balances from the amounts appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99 for the All Other line category. The amount transferred represents the additional school subsidy amounts that result from reducing the state valuation of certain property for the purpose of calculating school subsidy and includes \$705,121 for the City of Westbrook and \$89,979 for the Town of Livermore Falls.

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

Effective June 17, 1999.

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**CHAPTER 78**

**H.P. 76 - L.D. 89**

**Resolve, to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits**

**Emergency preamble.** **Whereas**, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective

until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas**, there exist numerous state laws that provide for veterans' benefits that are separately administered by several different state departments and agencies; and

**Whereas**, these laws recognize varying periods of service for eligibility to receive veterans' benefits; and

**Whereas**, these nonstandardized periods of service may prohibit certain veterans from receiving certain benefits under state law; and

**Whereas**, these nonstandardized periods of service have made the administering of veterans' benefits to Maine veterans both inconsistent and confusing, particularly when the periods of service conflict with eligibility requirements under federal law; and

**Whereas**, several matters concerning the burial of veterans, veterans' property tax exemptions, the maintenance of veterans' grave sites, and the types and extent of medical services offered to veterans and their families, among other issues, have been presented to the 119th Legislature; 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, be it

**Sec. 1. Committee established. Resolved:** That the Committee to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits, referred to in this resolve as the "committee," is established; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the committee consists of the following 13 members:

1. Two members of the Senate who also serve as members of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs, appointed by the President of the Senate;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives who also serve as members of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
3. Eight members who represent the joint standing committees listed in paragraphs A to E. The 8 committee members must be drawn equally from both Houses of the Legislature and from the 2 major political parties. The President of the Senate and the