

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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AN ACT TO AMEND THE ANNUAL
REVIEW OF FEES LAW

Rep. Rolde

MAJ-ONTP
MIN-OTP
HSE-ACCPY ONTP
SEN-ACCPY ONTP

SUMMARY: During the 110th Legislature, legislation was passed which required that the annual review of fees paid by the Department of Human Services to providers of health care to needy persons should be done in consultation with those providers, should take various factors into account, and should be completed so that it could be used as part of the annual budget process.

This bill added new language to stipulate that the Department should review the findings with the providers, and allow them an opportunity to comment on the findings. The Department considered that the additional requirements would be costly and time-consuming; providers felt they were necessary.

A majority of the Committee agreed not to pass the bill, but indicated they would be monitoring the review process this year and might submit further legislation if necessary.

268

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEDICAID
COPAYMENT LAW

Rep. Rolde

LV/WD
HSE-ACCPY LV/WD
SEN-ACCPY LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill would have insured that a pharmacy dispensing drugs to Medicaid recipients would receive the full value of the dispensing fee from the Department of Human Services. At present, the pharmacy receives a dispensing fee from the Department, plus a 50-cent co-payment from the Medicaid recipient. Under recent Federal changes, many more people would have been exempt from the co-payment, and so the pharmacy would be receiving less than the full dispensing fee.

The Committee agreed to a Leave to Withdraw report after it was discovered that there probably would not be Federal coverage of these costs, and that the state might also be in non-compliance with Federal law.

291

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW PRO-
HIBITING SMOKING AT PUBLIC
MEETINGS

Rep. Dexter

OTP-ND
LD 1455

SUMMARY: The bill added juries to the list of public proceedings at which smoking is prohibited.

Concerns about the bill came from 2 directions: persons who were concerned about the regulation of smoking in jury rooms, since it would be disruptive to the process to allow smoking breaks, unfair to smoking jurors, and possibly result in non-peer juries, and from those who objected to including this prohibition within the category of "public proceedings."