

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

The Committee established a subcommittee to work on LD 554 and other bills on General Assistance: IDs 841, 842, 1135 and 1337. In addition to Committee members, the subcommittee included representatives of MMA, welfare directors, Department of Human Services, Pine Tree Legal Assistance and low-income groups. The subcommittee was able to produce a compromise bill which became LD 1764.

570 AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING Rep. Bonney LV/WD
EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS HSE-ACCP LV/WD
SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill would have required the Board of Registration in Medicine to allow a physician simply to state that he had completed continuing medical education courses which are now required, rather than providing "satisfactory evidence" of their completion.

603 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE Rep. Ingraham LV/WD
INSPECTION OF HOSPITAL HSE-ACCP LV/WD
PHARMACIES PRIOR TO LICENSURE SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: This bill was identical to a bill introduced in 1979, which also received a Leave to Withdraw report from the Committee.

It required the Department of Human Services to send advance notice of inspections of hospitals to the drug inspector employed by the Board of Commissioners of Pharmacy. The drug inspector would be required to inspect the hospital pharmacy at the same time or within 48 hours after the departmental inspection, and his approval of the hospital pharmacy would be a condition for the issuance of a full license.

The Maine Hospital Association and the Department of Human Services opposed the bill and suggested that information on poor practices should be sent to the Department, who would have the final authority on action to be taken.

621 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE Sen. Twitchell MAJ-OTP-ND
THIRD-PARTY PRESCRIPTION LD 1539
PROGRAM ACT MIN-ONTP

SUMMARY: The bill dealt with 3rd party prescription intermediaries between patients and pharmacies, which handle billings and make payments to pharmacies. The bill was an attempt to regulate these programs so patients would have flexibility in service, and pharmacists would receive adequate reimbursement and protection. Because of state and Federal anti-trust laws, pharmacies cannot negotiate directly with the program administrators; therefore the bill was introduced. It established conditions under which 3rd party programs must operate, including notification to the Superintendent of Insurance, reimbursement rates not lower than the prevailing rates, bonding for program administrators, and a civil penalty for non-compliance.

Opposition came from insurance companies, who felt the measure was anti-consumer and anti-competitive. They particularly objected to the use of "prevailing rates," and efforts to meet this concern were a major focus of the Committee.

631 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT HOSPITAL SERVICES PRICE DISCRIMINATION Sen. Dow LV/WD
HSE ACCT LV/WD
SEN ACCT LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill's intent was to provide equity among non-governmental payors of health care costs. It prohibited hospitals from making contracts with 3rd party payors which were anti-competitive, or which discriminated in price because of different payment methods or services of a 3rd party payor.

The bill was considered together with the other bills on hospital costs, LDs 1174 and 1353; the Committee and some of the other interested parties felt the resulting compromise bill, LD 1737, addressed the equity among payors issue satisfactorily, at least for the present.

632 AN ACT TO PERMIT THE USE OF THE DRUG DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION Sen. Dutremble LV/WD
HSE ACCT LV/WD
SEN ACCT LV/WD

SUMMARY: This bill was identical to LD 1147, submitted in 1981. It allowed physicians to administer DMSO to their patients, or to prescribe it for them. It also allowed pharmacists to sell DMSO to customers who had a written order or prescription from their physician.

The sponsor requested Leave to Withdraw at the public hearing.

633 AN ACT RELATING TO ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES FOR THE EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS Sen. Gill LV/WD
HSE ACCT LV/WD
SEN ACCT LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill would have required the Department of Human Services to return to a previous accounting system for payments to agencies providing EPSDT programs. Agencies felt the newer system was more time-consuming and expensive for them.

The Department of Human Services felt that the problem was not shared by all agencies, and they worked out a compromise of a new rule permitting agencies which wished an exemption from the new accounting principles to submit a request for one. The agencies and sponsors then agreed to withdraw the bill.