

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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A significant provision was the addition of the category of limited licensure, for those who would use ionizing radiation only for diagnostic purposes, but with identical requirements with respect to patient safety. Temporary licenses were also added, for those awaiting re-examination.

Finally, the amendment stipulated that fees gained from licensure applications would be used to pay the expenses of the Board and the administration of the program.

One Senate Amendment (S-207) corrected a couple of minor printing errors; it was identical to a House Amendment (H-395) which was not adopted.

1194 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND Sen. Bustin LV/WD
PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR HSE-ACCP LV/WD
HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill indicated the state's intent to support hospice care for terminally-ill individuals; this could be provided either through home or inpatient care. The bill would have required the Department of Human Services to provide reimbursement for services provided by facilities licensed as hospitals or nursing homes.

In addition, 3rd-party insurers would also have to make benefits for hospice care services available to their subscribers.

The major opposition to the bill came not from opposition to hospice care, but rather because of the bill's provisions for reimbursement to facilities; those opponents preferred greater emphasis on home-based programs, and the use of volunteers. Others expressed concern that the proposed reimbursement system would create a form of licensing, and so would inhibit the development of other hospice programs.

Because of the strong interest in the topic, all interested parties agreed to develop more legislation for the next session.

1236 AN ACT TO REQUIRE INTERDEPART- Rep. Brodeur OTP-ND
MENTAL COORDINATION OF SOCIAL ID 1668
SERVICES PLANNING

SUMMARY: A similar bill introduced in the 110th Legislature led to a further study by the Committee after the session, and then to directed efforts by the Departments of Human Services and Mental Health and Retardation, and the Division of Community Services, with the chief goal of providing more information on finance and planning to the Legislature earlier during the legislative and budgetary processes.

The bill established a timetable for the development of a Social Services Plan, through assessments of past programs, and preliminary recommendations for the next year, and public hearings on the plan by the Appropriations Committee and the Health and Institutional