

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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year. A Senate Amendment (S-261) added that as an appropriation and required the fee increase to be deposited in the General Fund.

The bill was enacted in the Senate, but after several attempts to revive it, failed enactment in the House.

1683 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE Rep. Ketover HSE-ACCP MAJ (LD 1682)
MONEYS FOR PROGRAMS OF PRE- SEN-ACCP MAJ (LD 1682)
VENTIVE INTERVENTION AND
FAMILY SUPPORT

SUMMARY: LD 1683, the Minority Report's new draft of LD 685, corrected the statutory reference to the license fee, and added a direct appropriation, rather than having a dedicated account.

1650 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND FUND A Sen. Bustin LV/WD
MEDICAL MODEL OF CONGREGATE HSE-ACCP LV/WD
HOUSING SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill authorized the Commissioner of Human Services to establish a medical model of congregate housing as an alternative to nursing home care, and to provide funding to one site for a 2-year demonstration project. Among the conditions for eligibility for receiving a subsidy to participate in the project were that the persons be Medicaid recipients who were classified as requiring ICF-level nursing home care.

There was some concern expressed about the definition of a "medical model" and the limitation to Medicaid recipients, but also strong support for more development of alternatives to institutionalization. Recognizing these points, the Committee developed a new draft, which authorized the Commissioner to provide funds for various alternatives to nursing home care, including rental assistance, and delivery of medical and social services in a congregate housing setting.

The sponsor however withdrew the bill.

1664 RESOLVE, TO ESTABLISH A MAINE Rep. Benoit OTP-A
COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE HSE-ENACT.
AVAILABILITY, QUALITY AND SEN-ENACT.
DELIVERY OF MENTAL HEALTH GOV-SIGNED
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN RESOLVE 83, c. 47

SUMMARY: The bill established a 31-member study commission, including 6 legislators, to study the current procedures for identifying and assisting children who have special psychological, emotional and behavioral needs, and to make recommendations, including legislation, to the 2nd Regular Session of the Legislature.

The Committee Amendment (H-388) changed the term "mental health services for children" to "services provided to children with special needs," to emphasize the broader scope of the Commission. It also

required that the Commission have full access to information, and that it publicize and distribute its findings and recommendations throughout the state.

The Senate Amendment (S-250) removed the emergency provisions on the bill, and reduced the appropriation.

1689 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH REIMBURSE- Sen. Clark LV/WD
MENT PRINCIPLES GOVERNING NON- HSE-ACCP LV/WD
PROFIT HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SEN-ACCP LV/WD
SERVICE ORGANIZATION AGREE-
MENTS WITH RURAL HEALTH
CENTERS

SUMMARY: The bill would have required that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine reimburse rural health centers for the cost of providing care at the same rate provided under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The bill was withdrawn at the public hearing.

1717 AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATUTES Sen. Bustin HSE-ENACT.
RELATING TO FLUORIDATION SEN-ENACT.
GOV SIGNED
PL 83, c. 463

SUMMARY: The new draft of LD 1146 established new definitions of water districts, to reflect the more complex voting procedure for authorizing the addition of fluoride, provided how the question of adding fluoride could be brought before the voters (a petition procedure similar to that for other state referenda), established the form of the question to be submitted to voters, and prohibited a vote on the addition of fluoride more often than every couple of years. The majority requirement for approval is retained for municipalities, towns and plantations.

1728 AN ACT TO LIMIT PAYMENTS TO Sen. Bustin HSE-ENACT
HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS SEN-ENACT
WHICH ENGAGE PERSONS TO DEFEAT GOV-SIGNED
THE ORGANIZATION OF COLLECTIVE PL 83, c. 473
BARGAINING UNITS

SUMMARY: The new draft of LD 1501 modified the language as to the Legislature's concern about restrictions on organization, and also acknowledged the right of employers to present information on unionization to their employees. It clarified the nature of "disallowed expenditures," and added that the Department would not withhold reimbursement until a final decision against the health-care institution had been made. The fine for violating the reporting requirement was reduced.

A Senate Amendment (S-176) made a technical correction in the language.