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H.P. 1167

House of Representatives, December 30, 2013

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Amend MaineCare Rules as They Pertain to the Delivery of Covered Services via Telecommunications Technology

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 23, 2013. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. Macfarland MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative McELWEE of Caribou.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, MAKER of Calais, MASTRACCIO of Sanford,
POULIOT of Augusta, SANBORN of Gorham, WILLETTE of Mapleton, Senators: BURNS
of Washington, CRAVEN of Androscoggin.

1 Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and Whereas, registered nurses and behavioral health specialists provide covered 3 4 services via telecommunications technology to patients who are covered by MaineCare; 5 and Whereas, registered nurses and behavioral health specialists are not reimbursed by 6 7 MaineCare for any covered services provided via telecommunications technology; and 8 Whereas, medical doctors, physician assistants and family nurse practitioners are reimbursed by MaineCare for covered services provided via telecommunications 9 10 technology; and Whereas, requiring MaineCare reimbursement for covered services provided via 11 telecommunications technology by registered nurses and behavioral health specialists will 12 increase access to health care services for patients and lower the costs of delivering health 13 14 care; and 15 Whereas, providing for this legislation to take effect upon approval will contribute to expanding access to, and lowering the costs of delivering, health care as soon as 16 possible; and 17 18 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 19 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 20 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 21 therefore, be it 22 Sec. 1. Reimbursement. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend MaineCare rules to include registered nurses and behavioral health 23 24 specialists as providers that may be reimbursed for providing covered services via telecommunications technology to MaineCare patients. Rules adopted pursuant to this 25 26 resolve are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, 27 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. 28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this 29 legislation takes effect when approved. 30 **SUMMARY** 31 This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend 32 MaineCare rules to allow registered nurses and behavioral health specialists to be 33 reimbursed for providing covered services via telecommunications technology as are 34 medical doctors, physician assistants and family nurse practitioners.