

Date: (Filing No. S-)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 280, L.D. 722, “An Act to Expedite the Health Insurance Referral Process for Specialists by Allowing Referrals from Urgent Care Facilities”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Expedite the Health Insurance Referral Process for Specialists by Allowing Referrals During Urgent Care Visits'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4301-A, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Behavioral health care service. "Behavioral health care service" means a health care service or treatment to address mental health and substance use conditions.

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §4301-A, sub-§21 is enacted to read:

21. Urgent care. "Urgent care" means health care or treatment provided in response to exigent circumstances.

Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §4303, sub-§22-A is enacted to read:

22-A. Denial of referral during urgent care visit prohibited. A carrier may not deny payment for any behavioral health care service or physical therapy service covered under an enrollee's health plan based solely on the basis that the enrollee's initial referral was not made by the enrollee's primary care provider and, if a referral is required from a primary care provider, as long as the enrollee's referral is made by a provider during an urgent care visit and the enrollee's referral is approved by the enrollee's primary care provider prior to the date the behavioral health care service or physical therapy service is rendered to the enrollee. A carrier may not apply a deductible, coinsurance or copayment greater than the applicable deductible, coinsurance or copayment that would apply to the same health care service if the service was referred by the enrollee's primary care provider. A carrier may require a provider providing urgent care that is making a referral to provide additional information necessary to implement this subsection.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

