



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 62

H.P. 28

House of Representatives, January 13, 2021

**An Act To Promote Cost-effectiveness in the MaineCare Program
and Improve the Oral Health of Maine Adults and Children**

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin and
Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CRAVEN of Lewiston, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,
MEYER of Eliot, TEPLER of Topsham, Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-F, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 159, §§1 and 2 and
3 PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

4 **1. Coverage provided.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide
5 the following dental services, reimbursed under the United States Social Security Act, Title
6 XIX, or successors to it, to individuals 21 years of age and over, ~~limited to:~~

7 A. Acute surgical care directly related to an accident where traumatic injury has
8 occurred. This coverage will only be provided for the first 3 months after the accident;

9 B. Oral surgical and related medical procedures not involving the dentition and
10 gingiva;

11 C. Extraction of teeth that are severely decayed and pose a serious threat of infection
12 during a major surgical procedure of the cardiovascular system, the skeletal system or
13 during radiation therapy for a malignant tumor;

14 D. Treatment necessary to relieve pain, eliminate infection or prevent imminent tooth
15 loss; ~~and~~

16 ~~F. Other dental services, including full Full and partial dentures, medically necessary~~
17 ~~to correct or ameliorate an underlying medical condition, if the department determines~~
18 ~~that provision of those services will be cost-effective in comparison to the provision of~~
19 ~~other covered medical services for the treatment of that condition; and~~

20 G. Other comprehensive preventive, diagnostic and restorative dental services to
21 maintain good oral and overall health in accordance with rules adopted by the
22 department.

23 **Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to work with providers**
24 **to encourage participation.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall work
25 with providers of oral health care and dental services to encourage participation in the
26 MaineCare program to ensure access to the services required by the Maine Revised
27 Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-F, subsection 1.

28 **Sec. 3. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a public**
29 **education campaign.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop
30 public education materials and strategies for distribution of those materials including:

31 1. Materials provided to adult MaineCare members who receive dental services
32 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-F, subsection 1 on the
33 necessity of dental services for children and infants, the recommended timetable for
34 services to children and information relating to oral health care and dental providers who
35 provide services to children in the MaineCare program; and

36 2. Materials provided to MaineCare members who are aging out of children's coverage
37 under the MaineCare program and who are eligible to enroll as adult MaineCare members
38 regarding the availability of the comprehensive adult dental benefit under the Maine
39 Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-F, subsection 1.

40 The department shall engage stakeholders, including providers of pediatric medical
41 services and oral health care and dental services, in developing materials for distribution
42 and strategies for the distribution of those materials required under this section.

1 **Sec. 4. Report.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall determine the
2 costs of the comprehensive adult dental benefit under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22,
3 section 3174-F, subsection 1 and the savings from reduced hospital emergency room visits
4 and prescription drug costs from the provision of the comprehensive adult dental benefit
5 for a period of 5 years beginning with the effective date of this Act. The costs and savings
6 must be provided in a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having
7 jurisdiction over health and human services matters and appropriations and financial affairs
8 no later than January 1, 2027.

9

SUMMARY

10 This bill adds comprehensive preventive, diagnostic and restorative dental services to
11 the limited dental services currently available to MaineCare members 21 years of age and
12 over. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to work with providers of
13 oral health care and dental services to encourage participation in the MaineCare program.
14 It requires the department to develop public education materials and strategies for the
15 distribution of those materials relating to the importance of dental services for children and
16 the availability of the comprehensive adult dental benefit to children covered by the
17 MaineCare program who are aging out of the program. It requires the department to
18 provide a 5-year report on costs and savings relating to the comprehensive adult dental
19 benefit to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health
20 and human services matters and appropriations and financial affairs no later than January
21 1, 2027.