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An Act To Clarify the Scope of Practice of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors Regarding Tobacco Use

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, tobacco use continues to take a significant and yet largely preventable toll on the health of Maine residents and drains the economic resources of the State; and

Whereas, tobacco addiction affects a large proportion of Maine residents; and

Whereas, licensed alcohol and drug counselors are available to provide assistance to Maine residents, and there is evidence to suggest that providing tobacco addiction counseling services concurrently with other addiction counseling services is effective; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRS §6203-A, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. Drug. "Drug" includes the chemical substance known as nicotine.

Sec. 2. 32 MRS §6206, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Nicotine addiction counseling. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to require a person engaged in providing nicotine addiction counseling or treatment services to be licensed as an alcohol and drug counselor.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies that treatment for nicotine addiction is within an alcohol and drug counselor's scope of practice but does not require those providing nicotine treatment to be licensed as alcohol and drug counselors.