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No. 1188

H.P. 832

House of Representatives, March 26, 2013

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services
To Amend Its Rules of Reimbursement under the MaineCare
Program for Audiology and Speech-language Pathology Services**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative HERBIG of Belfast.
Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and
Representatives: CAREY of Lewiston, CASSIDY of Lubec, FARNSWORTH of Portland,
ROCHELO of Biddeford, STUCKEY of Portland.

1 **Sec. 1. MaineCare reimbursement for audiology and speech-language**
2 **pathology services. Resolved:** That by October 1, 2013 the Department of Health
3 and Human Services shall amend its rules regarding audiology and speech-language
4 pathology services under the MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II and Chapter III.

5 1. The amended rules must reimburse all non-school-based speech and hearing
6 pathology services provided by an independent speech-language practitioner at the rate
7 that is paid to a speech and hearing agency for the same services.

8 2. The amended rules must eliminate any provision that requires prior authorization
9 for the services of a 2nd audiologist within a 4-month time period of the provision of
10 services by a first audiologist.

11 3. The amended rules must, for a person eligible for audiology services under both
12 the federal Medicare program as the person's primary coverage and the MaineCare
13 program as the person's secondary coverage, provide for reimbursement by the
14 MaineCare program of the deductible applicable under the Medicare program; and be it
15 further

16 **Sec. 2. Rules. Resolved:** That rules adopted pursuant to this resolve are routine
17 technical rules as defined by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
18 2-A.

19 SUMMARY

20 This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the rules
21 of reimbursement under the MaineCare program for audiology and speech-language
22 pathology services by October 1, 2013 in order to equalize rates, eliminate a prior
23 authorization requirement and provide for payment by the MaineCare program of the
24 Medicare deductible for audiology services for certain MaineCare members. The rules
25 are designated as routine technical rules.