



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 1122

H.P. 834

House of Representatives, March 15, 2011

### An Act To Increase Dental Benefits and Oral Health Care

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HINCK of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CORNELL du HOUX of Brunswick, EVES of  
North Berwick, PETERSON of Rumford, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, STRANG BURGESS of  
Cumberland, STUCKEY of Portland, TREAT of Hallowell.

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  
3 and PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

4 **1. Coverage provided.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall  
5 provide 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  
9 accident;

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

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

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

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

21 By January 1, 2012, benefits provided under this section must include repair of decayed  
22 or broken teeth and full or partial dentures.

23 **Sec. 2. Report on the feasibility of implementing certain provisions of the**  
24 **Report of the Governor's Task Force on Expanding Access to Oral Health**  
25 **Care for Maine People.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Maine  
26 Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall convene a broadly representative  
27 working group to review the feasibility of implementing recommendations 3 and 4 of the  
28 2008 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Expanding Access to Oral Health Care for  
29 Maine People. The working group must include representatives of public health officials  
30 and advocates, providers of health services, consumers of health services, public health  
31 educators, the Finance Authority of Maine, the Advisory Council on Health Systems  
32 Development, the MaineCare Advisory Committee and professional associations of  
33 health care providers. The working group shall review the report and recommendation 3,  
34 which concerns integration of oral health care, and recommendation 4, which concerns a  
35 coordinated public education campaign, and the action steps for each recommendation.  
36 The working group shall report suggested legislation by November 1, 2011 to the Joint  
37 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

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## SUMMARY

This bill provides expanded dental benefits for adults in the MaineCare program and also directs the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to convene a broadly representative working group to review the feasibility of implementing certain provisions of the Governor's Task Force on Expanding Access to Oral Health Care for Maine People and to report with suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by November 1, 2011.