



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1676

H.P. 1199

House of Representatives, December 30, 2013

An Act To Strengthen Access Requirements and Review Standards for Health Insurance Plans

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 23, 2013. Referred to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative McGOWAN of York.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, Speaker EVES of North Berwick, HOBBS of Saco, JORGENSEN of Portland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, PLANTE of Berwick, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, RYKERSON of Kittery.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4303, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c. 90,
3 Pt. F, §7, is amended to read:

4 **1. Demonstration of reasonable access to providers.** A carrier offering or
5 renewing a managed care plan shall provide to its members reasonable access to health
6 care services and meet standards for reasonable access developed in rules adopted by the
7 superintendent. These standards must consider the geographic locations and distribution
8 of providers and ensure that a carrier has mitigated any detrimental impact associated
9 with requiring members to travel longer distances to obtain health care services. A
10 carrier may provide incentives to members to use designated providers based on cost or
11 quality, but may not require members to use designated providers of health care services.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill amends the law regarding the access standards that health insurance carriers
14 must meet to require that the standards address the geographic locations and distribution
15 of health care providers and that carriers mitigate the detrimental impact associated with
16 requiring members to travel longer distances to obtain health care services.