



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1840

H.P. 1361

House of Representatives, March 5, 2012

An Act To Limit MaineCare Reimbursement for Methadone Treatment

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative BURNS of Whiting.
Cosponsored by Senator THIBODEAU of Waldo and
Representatives: DOW of Waldoboro, ESPLING of New Gloucester, GIFFORD of Lincoln,
HANLEY of Gardiner, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland, TILTON of Harrington,
TURNER of Burlington, Senator: SHERMAN of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-SS** is enacted to read:

3 **§3174-SS. Methadone reimbursement limitations**

4 Effective January 1, 2013, the following limitations apply to reimbursement under the
5 MaineCare program for methadone for the treatment of addiction to opiates as defined in
6 Title 17-A, section 1101, subsection 7. Services must be provided at the clinic located
7 closest to the home of the member and services must be limited to a lifetime maximum of
8 24 months, except that reimbursement may be provided for longer than 24 months if prior
9 authorization is received from the department.

10 The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant
11 to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
12 2-A.

13 **Sec. 2. Review of options.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall
14 review the options that the Office of MaineCare Services has under federal law to restrict
15 transportation services reimbursement related to methadone treatment under the
16 MaineCare program to encourage efficient use of transportation services and to
17 discourage and penalize fraud. The review must include a study of laws in other states
18 restricting transportation reimbursement to a certain number of times per week or times
19 per lifetime and must include a study of limitations based on one-way or round-trip
20 reimbursement and a requirement to use the provider whose office is the closest to the
21 MaineCare member's home. The review must provide information on exception and
22 appeals processes and estimated savings for options judged by the Office of MaineCare
23 Services to be viable for the State. The department shall report to the joint standing
24 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters
25 by December 15, 2012 on the department's findings and recommendations as a result of
26 this review.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill proposes to limit MaineCare reimbursement for methadone for the treatment
29 of addiction to opiates to a lifetime maximum of 24 months, effective January 1, 2013.
30 The bill authorizes reimbursement for longer than 24 months if the Department of Health
31 and Human Services provides prior authorization. The bill proposes to limit services to
32 the clinic closest to the home of the member. The bill requires the department to review
33 the options to restrict transportation services reimbursement for methadone treatment
34 under the MaineCare program to encourage efficient use of transportation services and to
35 discourage and penalize fraud. The review must include a study of limitations based on
36 one-way or round-trip reimbursement and a requirement to use the provider whose office
37 is the closest to the MaineCare member's home. The department is required to report to
38 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human
39 services matters by December 15, 2012 on the department's findings and
40 recommendations as a result of the review.