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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 832, L.D. 1188, “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”

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

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

The amended rules must increase reimbursement for audiology and speech-language pathology services provided by an independent speech-language practitioner by 1/2 of the difference between the rates that are paid for those services and the rates that are paid to a speech and hearing agency for the same services; and be it further'

Amend the resolve in section 2 in the last line (page 1, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "2-A." and inserting the following: '2-A; and be it further'

Amend the resolve by inserting after section 2 the following:

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)
Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147**

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase in MaineCare reimbursement rates for speech and hearing pathology and audiology services for independent practitioners to the rate paid to speech and hearing agencies for the same services.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1	GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
2	All Other	\$422,720	\$680,868
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$422,720</u>	<u>\$680,868</u>
5	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2013-14	2014-15
6	All Other	\$684,022	\$1,089,920
7			
8	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$684,022</u>	<u>\$1,089,920</u>
9			

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment deletes the provisions of the resolve that pertain to services for
12 persons who are eligible for the Medicare program and that pertain to prior authorization.
13 The amendment retains the provision that raises rates for speech and hearing pathology
14 services, but at only half the increase proposed in the resolve, and replaces references to
15 "hearing services" with references to "audiology services." It also adds an appropriations
16 and allocations section.

17 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

18 **(See attached)**