



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1486

H.P. 1068

House of Representatives, May 1, 2013

An Act To Reduce the Use of Hospital Emergency Departments for Preventable Oral Health Conditions

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Speaker EVES of North Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, FARNSWORTH of Portland, GILBERT of Jay,
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, HERBIG of Belfast, PEOPLES of Westbrook, SANBORN of
Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-F, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 159, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 D. Treatment necessary to relieve pain, eliminate infection or prevent imminent
5 tooth loss; ~~and~~

6 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-F, sub-§1, ¶D-1** is enacted to read:

7 D-1. Services necessary to treat oral health conditions upon referral from a person's
8 primary care provider or from a hospital emergency department to a dental clinic
9 certified by the department to accept referrals. The dental clinic is authorized to
10 provide treatment to an individual, in accordance with rules adopted by the
11 department, to reduce or eliminate the need for future acute oral health care by that
12 individual, including the screening, diagnosis and treatment of other conditions
13 identified upon referral to the clinic. A dental clinic certified by the department to
14 accept referrals and provide care under this paragraph must have procedures in place
15 to ensure prompt access to care for individuals referred by a hospital emergency
16 department or by a primary care provider. Rules adopted under this paragraph are
17 routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; and

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill expands MaineCare coverage of oral health treatment for persons 21 years
20 of age and older who seek treatment from their primary care provider or in a hospital
21 emergency department for an acute oral health or related condition and are referred by the
22 primary care provider or the hospital to a dental clinic certified by the Department of
23 Health and Human Services to receive referrals. The bill requires MaineCare to cover
24 medically necessary treatment of the underlying oral health conditions that led to the
25 referral, as well as the screening, diagnosis and treatment of other conditions identified
26 upon referral to the dental clinic. The department is authorized to adopt routine technical
27 rules to determine the extent of covered services and the dental clinics that qualify to
28 provide the expanded scope of services, including ensuring that those clinics provide
29 prompt access to treatment.