



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 716

H.P. 488

House of Representatives, February 26, 2013

**An Act Regarding Prescription Medications for Children under the
MaineCare Program**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MALABY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representatives: MAKER of Calais, TURNER of Burlington, Senator:
BURNS of Washington.

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

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

3 **§3174-WW. Program regarding prescription medications for children**

4 The department shall adopt a program regarding prescription medications for children
5 that consists of a prescription medication protocol, prescription medication monitoring
6 and prior authorization for reimbursement under the MaineCare program. The program
7 must ensure that children have access to medically needed prescription medications in
8 compliance with the requirements of this section and the United States Department of
9 Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

10 **1. Stimulant drugs.** The program must include coverage for medications classified
11 as stimulants in accordance with the prescribing guidelines for various age ranges
12 established by the American Academy of Pediatrics and must include, but not be limited
13 to, training for caregivers in behavioral therapy in order to increase the effectiveness of
14 treatment. The program must include monitoring to ensure that children who are
15 prescribed stimulants have been properly diagnosed and are monitored on an ongoing
16 basis for effectiveness and side effects and to determine whether adjustments are required
17 to maintain the balance between the benefits and side effects of the stimulants.

18 **2. Stimulant drugs and benzodiazepine drugs.** The program must include a
19 protocol to ensure that children who are prescribed a stimulant drug and a benzodiazepine
20 drug concurrently are reviewed and monitored on an ongoing basis for appropriateness
21 and effectiveness of the combined drugs. The protocol must include the provision of
22 educational materials to parents and caregivers that cover appropriateness of use,
23 potential side effects, ongoing monitoring to determine effectiveness, necessity of
24 managing behavior and the effectiveness of combining behavioral therapy with
25 medication. The protocol must include a prior authorization process for continued
26 concurrent use beyond 3 months. Prior authorization must be based on clinically valid
27 studies justifying the concurrent use of the drugs for the diagnosis of the child and the
28 applicable time period.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt a program
31 regarding prescription medications for children that consists of a prescription medication
32 protocol, monitoring and prior authorization for reimbursement under the MaineCare
33 program. The program must ensure that children have access to medically needed
34 prescription medications in compliance with the requirements of this bill and the United
35 States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
36 Services.