

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Reimburse MaineCare in Certain Workers' Compensation Cases

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §14, sub-§2-J is enacted to read:

2-J. Authority to contract for attorney services. The department is authorized to pursue rights under this section, including 3rd-party reimbursement of MaineCare costs in workers' compensation claims cases, through contracted attorney services. The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 39-A MRSA §209, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. MaineCare reimbursement. MaineCare must be paid 100% of any expenses incurred for the treatment of an injury of an employee under this Title.

Sec. 3. 39-A MRSA §324, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §8 and affected by §§9 to 11, is amended to read:

1. Order or decision. The employer or insurance carrier shall make compensation payments within 10 days after the receipt of notice of an approved agreement for payment of compensation or within 10 days after any order or decision of the board awarding compensation. If the board enters a decision awarding compensation and an appeal is filed with the Law Court pursuant to section 322, payments may not be suspended while the appeal is pending. The employer or insurer may recover from an employee payments made pending appeal to the Law Court if and to the extent that the Law Court has decided that the employee was not entitled to the compensation paid. The board has full jurisdiction to determine the amount of overpayment, if any, and the amount and schedule of repayment, if any. The board, in determining whether or not repayment should be made and the extent and schedule of repayment, shall consider the financial situation of the employee and the employee's family and may not order repayment that would work hardship or injustice. The board shall notify the Commissioner of Health and Human Services within 10 days after the receipt of notice of an approved agreement for payment of compensation or within 10 days after any order or decision of the board awarding compensation identifying the employee who is to receive the compensation.

Effective September 20, 2007