



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1162

S.P. 383

In Senate, March 23, 2017

An Act To Reduce the Incidence of Obesity and Chronic Disease in Maine

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
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative HAMANN of South Portland and
Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, GRATWICK of Penobscot, KATZ of Kennebec,
Representative: HARLOW of Portland.

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

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

3 **§3174-ZZ. Medical nutritional therapy; obesity treatment medication; rules**

4 The department shall provide for the reimbursement under the MaineCare program
5 for medical nutritional therapy, including treatment for being overweight, obesity,
6 hypertension, diabetes, pre-diabetes, disorders of lipid metabolism, HIV infection,
7 unintended weight loss in older adults, chronic kidney disease, malnutrition and
8 inappropriate eating habits. Medical nutritional therapy also includes dietary surveillance
9 and counseling. Medical nutritional therapy services may be provided by physicians,
10 licensed dietitians and dietitian nutritionists who practice in hospitals, outpatient settings
11 or private offices.

12 The department shall provide for the reimbursement under the MaineCare program
13 for obesity treatment medication.

14 The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant
15 to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
16 2-A.

17 As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "dietitian nutritionist"
18 means a provider of medical nutritional therapy and "medical nutritional therapy" means
19 a therapeutic approach to treating medical conditions and their associated symptoms by
20 use of a specifically tailored diet devised and monitored by a physician, a licensed
21 dietitian or a dietitian nutritionist.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill provides for reimbursement under the MaineCare program for medical
24 nutritional therapy provided by physicians, licensed dietitians and dietitian nutritionists
25 and reimbursement for obesity treatment medication.