An Act To Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State

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

Presented by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, MEYER of Eliot,
PERRY of Calais, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, MOORE of
Washington.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1726-A is enacted to read:

§1726-A. Palliative care

1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "palliative care" has the same meaning as in section 1726.

2. Rules. The department shall adopt rules that support and standardize the delivery of palliative care in the State. The rules must include, but are not limited to, strategies for the distribution of public educational documents and the distribution by health care providers of information regarding the availability of palliative care to patients. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. Stakeholders. The department shall periodically consult with the Maine Hospice Council established in section 8611, the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 47-I and other stakeholders when developing educational documents and rules related to this section.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-FFF is enacted to read:

§3174-FFF. Palliative care reimbursement

1. Reimbursement. The department shall provide reimbursement under the MaineCare program for palliative care for the entire interdisciplinary team as appropriate to the plan of care, regardless of setting, including hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics and home care providers. For the purposes of this section, "palliative care" has the same meaning as in section 1726.

2. Rules. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules must include, but are not limited to, reimbursement policies and quality control measures that ensure and promote high-value palliative care under the MaineCare program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to provide reimbursement under the MaineCare program for palliative care for the entire interdisciplinary team as appropriate to the plan of care, regardless of setting, including hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics and home care providers. It also requires the department to adopt rules that support and standardize the delivery of palliative care in the State, including but not limited to strategies for the distribution of public educational documents and the distribution by health care providers of information regarding the availability of palliative care to patients. It also requires the department to consult with the Maine Hospice Council, the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council and other stakeholders when developing educational documents and rules related to palliative care.