

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



EDWARD J. KING
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE . BOSTON 02133

June 11, 1979

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Today, I am submitting to your Honorable Bodies the accompanying legislation entitled "AN ACT RELATIVE TO PAYMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE FOR CERTAIN HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT SERVICES."

Increasingly, Medicaid recipients receive their medical care in hospital outpatient departments and expenditures for these services are increasing at an average rate of fifteen percent. It is anticipated that expenditures to outpatient departments will increase from fifty five million in fiscal year 1979 to sixty six million in fiscal year 1980.

In order to reduce these excessive costs Medicaid outpatient department payments must be reduced by fifteen percent during fiscal year 1980.

Enactment of the accompanying legislation will provide for that reduction, and I therefor submit it for your prompt and favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. King
Edward J. King
Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Nine.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PAYMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE FOR CERTAIN HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to
2 the contrary, payments made by the department of public welfare
3 for hospital outpatient services (other than take-home drugs for
4 medical assistance recipients and life-sustaining drugs for general
5 relief recipients) during the nineteen hundred and eighty fiscal year
6 shall be reduced to eighty-five percent of the rate setting commis-
7 sion rates in effect during said fiscal year.