

Second Regular Session--129th Maine Legislature

Maine Hospital Association Legislative Report

8/4/2020

LD 30 An Act To Improve Health Care Data Analysis

Sponsor: Rep. Perry <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070666>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/6/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to improve the State's capacity to use data regarding health care costs and health care systems. The State's ability to better analyze and use data regarding health care utilization and health care quality will serve to inform the State's health care policy. This concept draft is the result of the work of the Task Force on Health Care Coverage for All that worked over the past two years looking at various health care reform ideas. (MHA and hospitals were represented on the Task Force). The Task Force members who supported this concept were not able to fully articulate how the data should be used or by whom. As a result, the bill is now only a concept draft.

LD 46 An Act To Establish a Substance Use Disorder Clinic at the Cumberland County Jail

Sponsor: Rep. Brennan <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070681>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 4/1/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill provides \$250,000 to create a substance use disorder clinic at the Cumberland County jail.

LD 51 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Health Care Coverage for All of Maine

Sponsor: Rep. Sanborn <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070678>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: 5/9/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This concept draft proposes to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Health Care Coverage for All of Maine.

LD 73 An Act To Provide an Income Tax Credit for Certain Student Loan Repayments

Sponsor: Sen. Pouliot <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070760>

Taxation **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill provides an income tax credit for certain student loan repayments made by the Finance Authority of Maine or an entity managed or administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. The credit is equal to the amount an individual is required to include in federal adjusted gross income as the result of student loan payments made directly to the individual's student loan lender by the Finance Authority of Maine, or an entity managed or administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, for residents of the State employed by a business located in the State multiplied by the individual's highest federal marginal income tax rate.



LD 177 Resolve, To Improve Access to Bariatric Care

Sponsor: Rep. Perry <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070926>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 2/7/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide 16 new specialized bariatric care beds in one or more nursing facilities to serve individuals with a body mass index greater than 40.

LD 181 An Act To Provide Funding to the Department of Health and Human Services To Support Free Health Clinics in the State

Sponsor: Rep. Farnsworth <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070915>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 2/7/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill provides \$100K to support free health clinics in the State.

LD 215 An Act To Increase the Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Service Paid by the Department of Corrections

Sponsor: Rep. Pluecker <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071006>

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 2/25/2019 10:00 AM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill requires the Department of Corrections, or its contracted medical provider, to pay to a provider of ambulance services 225% of the allowable reimbursement under the MaineCare program for ambulance services provided for a person residing in a correctional or detention facility. [MHA believes an amended version of the bill will be filed at the public hearing.]

LD 227 An Act To Strengthen Maine's Public Health Infrastructure

Sponsor: Rep. Perry <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070982>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OPA

Public Hearing: 4/3/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: RESOLVE 2019, CH 114

As enacted, the bill directs DHHS to review, with stakeholder input, the State's public health infrastructure and develop recommendations to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of public health service delivery and to submit a report with those recommendations to HHS Committee no later than January 1, 2021.

LD 231 An Act To Improve Public Health by Maximizing Federal Funding Opportunities

Sponsor: Rep. Perry <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070989>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 2/20/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill, a concept draft, proposes to increase federal funding to improve the State's public health outcomes and workforce by designating the Maine Public Health Institute within the Muskie School of Public Service as an agent of DHHS for the purpose of applying for federal funds to support public health research and programming. To provide guidance to the Maine Public Health Institute in carrying out this duty, this bill would establish an advisory board composed of officials from the department, including the Director of the Maine CDC, and representatives of statewide public health organizations and care providers.



Maine Hospital Association

33 Fuller Road, Augusta, Maine 04330

Tel.: 207/622-4794; Fax: 207/622-3073; Website: www.themha.org

LD 232 An Act To Change the Process by Which Designated Nonstate Mental Health Institutions Petition the District Court To Admit Certain Patients to a Progressive Treatment Program

Sponsor: Rep. Perry <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070990>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 4/24/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status: PTBE

This bill changes the process by which a petition to the District Court is made to admit a patient at a designated nonstate mental health institution to a progressive treatment program. Current law provides that the superintendent or chief administrative officer of a psychiatric hospital, including a designated nonstate mental health institution, directly petition the District Court. This bill provides that the nonstate institution may request the DHHS Commissioner to file the petition on the institutions behalf.

LD 284 An Act To Improve Care Provided to Forensic Patients

Sponsor: Rep. Gattine <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071037>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 5/2/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill establishes a 21-bed residential forensic step-down facility, which provides treatment of forensic patients who no longer require hospital level care but cannot be safely treated in a community setting, in Augusta in the Capitol Area. It provides that the facility must be licensed and that the Department of Health and Human Services must adopt rules that govern its operations. It creates an advisory committee to participate in and guide the planning process for the facility. It provides that the transfer of a forensic patient into the forensic step-down facility must be approved by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

LD 294 An Act To Require the Fiscal Impact Estimate of a Direct Initiative of Legislation To Be Included on the Ballot

Sponsor: Rep. Morris <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071054>

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 2/25/2019 10:00 AM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill provides that a ballot for a statewide vote on a direct initiative must include a summary of the fiscal impact estimate prepared by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review for that direct initiative.

LD 310 An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government

Sponsor: Rep. Gattine <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071059>

Appropriations & Financial Affairs

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This is the SFY 2019 supplemental budget. [Placeholder – content not yet available.]

LD 311 An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government

Sponsor: Rep. Gattine <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071061>

Appropriations & Financial Affairs

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This is the biennial budget for SFYs 2020-2021. [Placeholder – content not yet available.]



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LD 315 An Act To Promote Healthy Living in Maine

Sponsor: *Rep. Madigan* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071069>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 4/3/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill appropriates \$282K for evidence-based programs to promote healthy living of the State's older adults.

LD 362 Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Submit a State Plan Amendment To Exempt Retirement and Educational Assets from Calculations for Medicaid Eligibility

Sponsor: *Sen. Bellows* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071097>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 2/20/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: CO

This resolve requires DHHS to prepare and submit a state plan amendment to the CMS in order to make a change in Medicaid eligibility requirements for individuals with disabilities under 65 years of age who have dependent children living in the home by disregarding assets held in qualifying retirement and education accounts.

LD 402 An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers

Sponsor: *Rep. Tipping* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071213>

Labor & Housing

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 3/11/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status:

This bill annually raises the minimum salary that an employee who works in an executive, administrative or professional capacity must earn in order for that employee to be exempt from the laws governing the minimum wage and overtime pay until it is \$55,224 on January 1, 2022. The bill provides for an annual adjustment, beginning January 1, 2023, based on the percentage annual increase in certain earnings as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

LD 433 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual

Sponsor: *Rep. Reckitt* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071244>

Judiciary

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing:

Final Status: PTBE

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to prohibit the denial or abridgment by the State or any political subdivision of the State of equal rights based on the sex of an individual.



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LD 455 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Expand Maine's Research, Development, Commercialization and Clinical Infrastructure Assets To Improve Outcomes for Maine Families with Members Suffering from Alzheimer's, Dementia and Other Diseases of Aging

Sponsor: *Sen. Luchini* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071208>

Appropriations & Financial Affairs

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$65,000,000, to the Maine Technology Institute will be used for investment in research, development, commercialization and clinical infrastructure assets in Maine in the target sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, including equipment and technology upgrades that improve outcomes for Maine families suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia and other diseases of aging, and to enable organizations to gain and hold market share and expand employment or preserve jobs. The funds must be awarded through a competitive process to Maine-based public and private entities, leveraging other funds in at least a one-to-one ratio.

LD 493 An Act To Provide Lung Cancer Counseling and Screening for MaineCare Recipients

Sponsor: *Sen. Sanborn* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071332>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 3/20/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill requires that shared decision-making counseling and annual screening for lung cancer for certain recipients be reimbursed under the MaineCare program. The Department of Health and Human Services may adopt routine technical rules to implement this requirement.

LD 498 Resolve, Regarding Reimbursement of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Codes under MaineCare

Sponsor: *Sen. Sanborn* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071337>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 2/27/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This resolve sets the reimbursement rates for occupational therapy and physical therapy services under the Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Sections 68 and 85 at 70% of the federal Medicare reimbursement rate as long as the rate is no lower than the rate in effect on January 1, 2019.

LD 511 An Act To Create an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Coordinator Position within the Department of Health and Human Services

Sponsor: *Rep. Craven* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071376>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 3/21/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill establishes a position within the Department of Health and Human Services, office of aging and disability services for coordinating programs and services to Maine's population with dementias across departments and branches of State Government. The coordinator is required to implement recommendations developed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and national organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association and plans developed by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The department is required to submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters outlining the activities and progress of the coordinator and the department. The bill includes \$96K for the coordinator position.



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LD 519 An Act To Expand Adult Dental Health Insurance Coverage

Sponsor: Rep. Brooks <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071360>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: 2/21/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill expands the availability of coverage for comprehensive dental services.

Part A of the bill broadens the scope of required coverage under the MaineCare program for adults. Under current law, coverage for adults over age 21 is limited to certain services.

Part B of the bill requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for comprehensive dental services. Part B applies to policies and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2020.

Part C of the bill requires dentists as a condition of license renewal to adopt and implement policies to provide comprehensive dental services through charity care or financial assistance to persons without MaineCare coverage or private health insurance. Part C also authorizes the Board of Dental Practice to adopt rules relating to this requirement.

LD 531 An Act To Provide Counsel for a Person Who Is the Subject of an Adult Guardianship, Conservatorship or Other Protective Arrangement Proceeding

Sponsor: Rep. Cardone <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071408>

Judiciary **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: 4/24/2019 1:30 PM **Final Status:**

This bill requires a probate court to appoint an attorney for a person who is not already represented by an attorney when the person is the subject of a petition for adult guardianship, conservatorship or other protective arrangement.

LD 539 Resolve, To Ensure Appropriate Personal Needs Allowances for Persons Residing in Long-term Care Facilities

Sponsor: Rep. McCrea <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071416>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** PASSED
Public Hearing: 2/25/2019 12:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its MaineCare rules to provide for increases in the personal needs allowances of residents in nursing facilities. The rules are designated as routine technical rules. Fiscal note is \$200K/yr.

LD 593 Resolve, To Stabilize the Behavioral Health Workforce and Avert More Expensive Treatments

Sponsor: Sen. Breen <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071475>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 4/19/2019 9:00 AM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This resolve provides funding to increase Section 65 rates by 8% (\$5.2 million per year). The resolve also specifies that the increase in reimbursement rates must be applied to wages and benefits for employees who provide direct care services and not to administrators or managers.



LD 606 Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Provide Cost-based Reimbursement to Maine Veterans' Homes

Sponsor: *Sen. Luchini* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071502>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 2/20/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules governing MaineCare reimbursement in order to provide cost-based reimbursement to Maine Veterans' Homes nursing facilities. \$1.3M General Fund per year.

LD 611 An Act To Provide Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government

Sponsor: *Rep. Jorgensen* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071510>

Apropiations & Financial Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: **Final Status:**

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.
This emergency bill proposes to provide supplemental appropriations and allocations necessary for the operation of State Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

LD 653 Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Study Opportunities for Improving Home and Community-based Services

Sponsor: *Rep. Cooper* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071622>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 2/25/2019 12:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study Opportunities for Improving Home and Community-based Services. The task force membership consists of Legislators, representatives of entities knowledgeable about or involved in home and community-based services. The task force's duties include examination and review of the unmet need for home and community-based services, adequacy of the workforce providing home and community-based services, current systems for delivering home and community-based services and reimbursement arrangements in the home and community-based services sector.

LD 692 Resolve, To Address Reimbursement Rates for Licensed Clinical Social Workers under MaineCare

Sponsor: *Rep. Gramlich* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071661>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 3/20/2019 9:00 AM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III to increase reimbursement rates for counseling services provided by licensed clinical social workers to no less than the lowest reimbursement rate for the same counseling services paid by an insurance carrier licensed in this State.



LD 697 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Conduct a Review of Rules Governing In-home Personal Care Assistance Services

Sponsor: *Sen. Bellows* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071674>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 2/25/2019 12:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to review and update its rules governing the provision of and reimbursement for in-home personal care assistance services to ensure the provision of high-quality care and to provide protections to vulnerable people who receive personal care assistance services.

LD 706 An Act To Reduce the Incidence of Obesity and Chronic Disease in the State

Sponsor: *Sen. Libby* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071683>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TABLE
Public Hearing: 2/27/2019 12:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill provides for reimbursement under the MaineCare program for medical nutritional therapy and prescription drug therapy.

LD 745 An Act To Support the Northern New England Poison Center

Sponsor: *Rep. Jorgensen* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071731>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TABLE
Public Hearing: 2/27/2019 12:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill appropriates \$281K annually to the Northern New England Poison Center to ensure continued access to 24-hour expert medical treatment advice and information on potentially harmful substances.

LD 763 An Act To Ensure the Availability of Community Integration Services

Sponsor: *Rep. Talbot Ros* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071770>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 4/9/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill provides \$2.1M per year in General Fund funding to increase reimbursement rates in the Medicaid, Section 17 program for community integration services to \$24.25 per quarter-hour.

LD 775 Resolve, To Direct the Department of Health and Human Services To Amend Its Rules for Eligibility for Community Support Services

Sponsor: *Rep. Gramlich* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071782>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 4/9/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** RESOLVE 2019, CH 117

This Resolve authorizes, but does not mandate, that DHHS amend its rule MaineCare Benefits Manual, Section 17, (Community Support Services) concerning eligibility criteria for services under that section. It requires the department to report to the Health and Human Services Committee by January 15, 2021 on this matter.



LD 799 An Act To Increase Faculty in Nursing Education Programs

Sponsor: Rep. Jorgensen <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071808>

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement & Business Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 4/4/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill amends the nursing education loan repayment program as follows:

1. It extends eligibility to apply to individuals who are currently enrolled in master's or doctoral degree programs;
2. It specifies that applicants must indicate an intention to work as full-time nursing faculty in a nursing education program in the State, and increases the required commitment from 3 to 5 years after acceptance into the nursing education loan repayment program;
3. It increases the maximum amount of loans eligible for repayment under the program from \$4,500 to \$30,000 for a master's degree, and from \$6,000 to \$60,000 for a doctoral degree.

LD 803 An Act To Create 4 Regional Mental Health Receiving Centers

Sponsor: Rep. Warren <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071804>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 2/24/2020 10:00 AM

Final Status:

This bill establishes 4 crisis intervention centers regionally throughout the State that will be operated and maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services. It requires the crisis intervention centers to provide treatment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and to provide sufficient staffing. It provides that the Department of Health and Human Services must adopt rules that include the certification of the crisis intervention centers; the location of the crisis intervention centers to ensure regional accessibility throughout the State; admission and discharge standards; requirements for notice of a person's admission; availability of and patients' access to treatment; the staffing model, with specific descriptions of staffing levels, roles and responsibilities; and patient rights protections; and that, to the extent possible, the rules must be consistent with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 511; Title 34-B, chapter 1, subchapter 8; and Title 34-B, chapter 3, subchapter 4.

LD 836 An Act To Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers

Sponsor: Rep. Handy <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071870>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 2/25/2019 12:00 PM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill provides \$600K in ongoing funding to the school-based health centers within the Fund for a Healthy Maine program within the Department of Health and Human Services to add an additional 15 school-based health center sites.

LD 880 An Act To Respond to Federal Changes to Social Programs

Sponsor: Rep. Hymanson <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071925>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing:

Final Status: APP TBL CO

As amended, the bill would direct DHHS to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates, as appropriate, to account for the new state-imposed cost of providing paid time off to per diem workers.



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LD 915 An Act To Provide Adequate Reimbursement under MaineCare for Ambulance and Neonatal Transport Services

Sponsor: *President Jackso* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071956>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing:

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill specifies that beginning September 1, 2019 the reimbursement rate for ambulance services under the MaineCare program may not be less than the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare and reimbursement for neonatal transport services under MaineCare must be at the average rate for critical care transport services under Medicare.

LD 931 An Act Concerning the Department of Health and Human Services

Sponsor: *Rep. Hymanson* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280071975>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing:

Final Status: APP TBL CO

As amended, the bill provides for reimbursement under the MaineCare program for prescription drug therapy services to treat obesity. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section. The majority report provides for reimbursement under the MaineCare program for prescription drug therapy services to treat obesity. The General Fund Cost is approximately \$3M per year.

LD 968 An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021

Sponsor: *Rep. Hubbell* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072067>

Appropriations

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

Supplemental Budget (Biennial SFY 2020-21) Concept Draft

LD 969 An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

Sponsor: *Rep. Hubbell* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072068>

Appropriations

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

Supplemental Budget (Biennial SFY 2019) Concept Draft



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LD 972 Resolve, To Increase Access to Brain Injury Waiver Services

Sponsor: Rep. Warren <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072070>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing:

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the rates for services provided to MaineCare members receiving Home Support (Residential Habilitation) Level I under the brain injury waiver, rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 18, to no less than \$8.63 per quarter hour. It also allows up to 400 units of care coordination each year rather than only in the first year of receiving services under the waiver. The Department of Health and Human Services is directed to explore opportunities to provide additional telehealth services, including care coordination services, provided by both licensed medical personnel and nonlicensed personnel.

LD 1052 An Act To Require Regular and Transparent Review of MaineCare Reimbursement Rates

Sponsor: Sen. Sanborn <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072164>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 4/3/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill establishes a regular review process for MaineCare reimbursement rates. The Department of Health and Human Services shall review all rates over a 3-year period except those that are already subject to regular review, based on cost, reimbursed at a capitated rate, or tied to Medicare or some other rates. The 3-year schedule and the reviews are required to be submitted to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and appropriations and financial affairs. The bill also establishes the MaineCare Reimbursement Rates Review Advisory Committee made up of stakeholders to provide advice and input to the department on rate reviews.

LD 1085 An Act To Ensure That Maine Residents Have Adequate and Affordable Access to Health Care

Sponsor: Sen. Sanborn <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072184>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: TABLED

Public Hearing:

Final Status: DEAD

This concept draft bill proposes to ensure that consumer protections in health insurance are maintained under state law.

LD 1106 An Act To Improve the Health and Economic Security of Older Residents

Sponsor: Rep. Brennan <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072232>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill removes the asset test for the Medicare savings program and the elderly low-cost drug program. It also increases the income eligibility levels for the Medicare savings program and the elderly low-cost drug program to the levels in effect prior to Public Law 2011, chapter 657. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to submit any necessary state plan amendments for approval for the increases in income eligibility.



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Tel.: 207/622-4794; Fax: 207/622-3073; Website: www.themha.org

LD 1126 Resolve, To Classify Employee Health Insurance as a Fixed Cost for MaineCare Reimbursement in Nursing Homes

Sponsor: *Sen. Timberlake* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072278>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 3/27/2019 9:00 AM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule (Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities) to move health insurance costs for personnel from direct care and routine cost components to fixed costs components.

LD 1135 Resolve, To Increase Funding for Assertive Community Treatment

Sponsor: *Rep. Madigan* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072299>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 4/9/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This resolve requires DHHS to increase the MaineCare reimbursement rates for assertive community treatment by 25%, contract with a 3rd party to conduct a rate study of reimbursement rates for assertive community treatment and report with findings by January 30, 2020. The department is authorized to set new rates based on the rate study as long as the rates are no lower than those in effect on April 1, 2019.

LD 1138 An Act To Ensure Health Insurance Coverage for Treatment for Childhood Postinfectious Neuroimmune Disorders Including Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome

Sponsor: *Rep. Bailey* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072304>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 3/28/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill requires health insurance coverage for treatment of childhood postinfectious neuroimmune disorders, a group of medical conditions that includes autoinflammatory encephalopathic conditions including pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome. The treatments authorized include certain treatments described as the standard of care in a series of articles in the 2017 Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology, Volume 27, Number 7. The requirements apply to all individual and group policies and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2020.

LD 1146 An Act To Ensure the Provision of Housing Navigation Services to Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

Sponsor: *Rep. McCreight* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072289>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 4/23/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill creates within the Department of Health and Human Services a housing navigator who:

1. Assists disabled and elderly persons in locating housing, transitioning between housing settings and accessing home repair and home modification services and materials;
2. Maintains and makes publicly available housing assistance information and resources; and
3. Identifies gaps in housing assistance needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities and periodically submits a report on the gaps to the director of the Department of Health and Human Services' office of aging and disability services for inclusion in the state plan on aging.



LD 1229 Resolve, To Establish the Committee To Study and Develop Recommendations To Address Guardianship Challenges That Delay Patient Discharges from Hospitals

Sponsor: Rep. McCreight <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072473>

Judiciary

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing:

Final Status: CO

This resolve establishes a study group to develop recommendations to address guardianship, conservatorship and authorization of transaction challenges that result in extended hospitalization of patients clinically qualified for discharge from a hospital.

LD 1256 An Act To Provide a Health Care Preceptor Tax Credit

Sponsor: Rep. Perry <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072492>

Taxation

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 4/17/2019 10:00 AM

Final Status: STUDY TBL CO

This bill establishes a refundable tax credit in the amount of \$500 per student, up to a maximum of \$1,500 per year, for a health care preceptor who provides, without compensation, instruction to and supervision of advanced practice registered nursing students in an approved course of study. A health care preceptor may be a licensed physician, physician's assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.

LD 1295 An Act To Determine the Need To Increase the Number of Forensic Emergency and Crisis Beds

Sponsor: Rep. Talbot Ros <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072561>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 1/17/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status:

This concept draft bill proposes to direct DHHS and the Department of Corrections to determine the current need for forensic emergency and crisis beds to ensure the prompt and humane treatment of arrested individuals who are suffering from mental illness and awaiting trial.

LD 1315 An Act To Support Medically Monitored Crisis Support and Intervention

Sponsor: Rep. Gattine <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072578>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 4/23/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: POCKET

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for an enhanced crisis stabilization reimbursement rate under the MaineCare program for medically monitored crisis support and intervention provided to persons 18 years of age or older with mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders who voluntarily seek treatment.

LD 1350 An Act To Improve Rural Health Care

Sponsor: Pres. Jackson <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072633>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 5/3/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

MHA BILL This bill provides that, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, student loan payments made by a taxpayer's employer directly to a lender on behalf of a qualified health care employee are not included in federal adjusted gross income for Maine income tax purposes. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule regarding reimbursement to rural and nonrural hospitals, acute care critical access hospitals and rural health clinics.



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LD 1362 An Act To Fund Opioid Treatment by Establishing an Excise Tax on Manufacturers of Opioids

Sponsor: *Rep. O'Neil* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072684>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 4/11/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill establishes the Opioid Stewardship Fund within the Fund for a Healthy Maine for the purpose of supporting opioid use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery funded by an excise tax of 0.1¢ per morphine milligram equivalent assessed against opioid drug manufacturers for opioid drugs purchased by consumers in the State.

LD 1377 An Act To Enhance and Improve the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board and To Establish an Independent Oversight Panel To Review Deaths of and Serious Injuries to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism

Sponsor: *Rep. Madigan* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072705>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 5/3/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status:

This bill establishes the Panel To Review Deaths of and Serious Injuries to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism. The panel coordinator must review all cases of death of and serious injury to persons with intellectual disabilities or autism receiving adult developmental services and determine those that require further review by the panel. The panel has access to records necessary for the review. The panel must provide reports to the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board with findings and recommendations. The panel is required to provide reports to the Legislature on an annual basis and may provide trend analyses to the Legislature as necessary. Legislative reports are public documents. The bill also makes changes to the laws governing the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board.

LD 1387 An Act To Increase Access to Safe and Affordable Prescription Drugs

Sponsor: *Pres. Jackson* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072701>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status: DEAD

This bill, using the guidance developed by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, enacts the Maine Pharmaceutical Drug Safety Act to allow an individual in Maine to import prescription drugs from Canada as long as specific criteria are met, including that the drug is imported for personal use, that the individual importing the drug has a valid prescription, that the drug does not present an unreasonable risk to the individual and that no more than a 90-day supply of the drug is imported. The prescription drug to be imported must also meet specific requirements. The importation of controlled substances and prescription drugs for sale or resale is specifically prohibited.



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LD 1410 An Act To Create Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits

Sponsor: *Speaker Gideon* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072759>

Labor & Housing

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 4/19/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status:

AS AMENDED: The bill would create a work group to further study the issue of FMLA and report back recommendations to the Legislature in 2021. This bill establishes a paid family and medical leave benefits program administered by the Department of Labor. It is in addition to any existing program offered by employers. The program provides up to 12 weeks of family leave and up to 20 weeks of medical leave to eligible covered individuals. An individual is eligible for leave under the program after working 26 weeks or more for any employer in the 12 months prior to submitting an application or if the individual is self-employed and has elected to be part of the program.

The maximum weekly benefit amount is capped at 100% of the state average weekly wage. The weekly benefit amount is 90% of the portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is equal to or less than 50% of the state average weekly wage and 67% of the portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is more than 50% of the state average weekly wage.

Funds for administrative costs and payment of benefits will come from a 0.55% payroll tax on employees. The rate of contribution is capped at 0.55% in the form of a payroll tax.

The bill requires payroll contributions to begin 2021 and benefits to begin in 2022.

LD 1418 An Act To Address Maine's Shortage of Behavioral Health Services for Minors

Sponsor: *Rep. McCreight* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072788>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 4/19/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status:

This bill:

1. Defines "behavioral health needs" to mean a wide range of mental health disorders and illnesses, substance use disorder, developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder;
2. Directs the DHHS to take measures to address the issue of extended stays in hospital emergency departments by minors with behavioral health needs by:
 - A. Maintaining a daily updated online statewide list of available mental health facility or program and community service provider placements for referral purposes by hospital emergency departments;
 - B. Maintaining a quarterly updated online resource list of mental health programs or facilities and community service providers that treat behavioral health needs; and
 - C. Collecting monthly data on and study the issue of extended stays of minors with behavioral health needs in hospital emergency departments;
3. Directs the department to study the data and analysis on extended stays in hospital emergency departments by minors with behavioral health needs:
 - A. Reasons for the extended stays;
 - B. Specific behavioral health needs treatment programs and the waiting list for admission to each program; and
 - C. Funding mechanisms to provide short-term transitional assistance to minors with behavioral health needs discharged from a hospital emergency department to residential placements, partial hospitalizations or home-based programs; and
4. Directs the department to study the feasibility of adding a child behavioral needs advocate within the department to coordinate the department's activities with those of various agencies and programs that provide behavioral health needs services to minors and to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2020.

LD 1429 An Act To Fund Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment

Sponsor: *President Jackso* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072798>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 4/26/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill establishes the Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Fund administered by the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of supporting opioid use disorder analysis, prevention and treatment. The fund is funded by a 2¢ fee per morphine milligram equivalent assessed against prescription opioid drug manufacturers for prescription opioid drugs distributed in the State as well as appropriations, allocations and contributions from private and public sources.



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LD 1434 An Act To Allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists To Bill for Their Services

Sponsor: Rep. Perry <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072806>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 4/18/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill requires insurers, health maintenance organizations and nonprofit hospitals or medical service organizations to provide coverage for the services of certified registered nurse anesthetists provided to individuals.

LD 1460 An Act To Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unwanted Drugs

Sponsor: Sen. Gratwick <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072911>

Environment & Natural Resources **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: **Final Status:**

This bill provides for the establishment of drug take-back stewardship programs. It requires certain drug manufacturers, as defined in the bill, to operate a drug take-back stewardship program to collect and dispose of certain drugs.

LD 1461 An Act To Support Early Intervention and Treatment of Mental Health Disorders

Sponsor: Sen. Breen <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072912>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 4/24/2019 9:00 AM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill requires DHHS to establish a funding mechanism and reimbursement rate for the treatment of individuals showing early signs of a psychotic disorder using a coordinated specialty care model.

LD 1466 An Act To Allow Community-based Organizations To Participate in Diversion Projects for Persons with Substance Use Disorder

Sponsor: Rep. Talbot Ros <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280072928>

Criminal Justice & Public Safety **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: **Final Status:**

This bill amends the Substance Use Disorder Assistance Program, which is a program that provides grants to municipalities, counties and regional jails to carry out projects designed to reduce substance use, substance use-related crimes and recidivism, to include community-based organizations as entities eligible for grants under the program. "Community-based organization" is defined as a nonprofit community organization that provides substance use disorder services to individuals, including, without limitation, substance use assessment, treatment, education or support group service.

LD 1539 An Act To Provide Maine Children Access to Affordable Health Care

Sponsor: Rep. Carney <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073256>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 5/2/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill changes the maximum eligibility level for children to receive Medicaid 200% of the federal poverty level to 325% of the federal poverty level. It removes the 3-month waiting period for enrollment in the Cub Care program following the loss of health insurance or coverage under an employer-based plan. It also removes any asset test. It provides coverage to persons 19 and 20 years of age and to noncitizens under 21 years of age. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to use state funds to fund the program but may apply for waivers or state plan amendments to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to receive federal matching funds.



LD 1563 An Act To Encourage the Development of Broadband Coverage in Rural Maine

Sponsor: *Sen. Bellows* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073368>

Energy, Utilities & Technology

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing:

Final Status: PL 2019 CH 625

1. Renames the ConnectME Authority the ConnectMaine Authority in the Maine Revised Statutes;
2. Amends the law governing collection of data by the ConnectMaine Authority to require, rather than permit, certain data collection and to specify the purposes for which data may be required. It also specifies that the authority may initiate a proceeding to determine whether to remove confidential designation of specific information;
3. Repeals the broadband sustainability fee;
4. Amends the law regarding broadband plans funded by broadband planning grants to remove the requirement that the plans include certain elements, instead allowing these elements to be included; and
5. Requires the authority to initiate rulemaking within 90 days of the effective date of the Act to implement the provisions of the Act.

LD 1577 An Act To Assist Nursing Homes in the Management of Facility Beds

Sponsor: *Rep. Perry* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073382>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 4/29/2019 10:00 AM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill makes several changes to nursing home regulations. First, it restores the ability of nursing facilities to voluntarily reduce the number of their licensed beds and then later increase the number of their licensed beds to the prior level after obtaining a certificate of need and meeting certain conditions. Second, it requires DHHS to include in its calculation of reimbursement for services provided by a nursing facility the cost incurred by the facility for a medical director. It also requires the inclusion of costs incurred by a nursing facility for the acquisition, use and maintenance of computer or cloud-based software systems to as a fixed cost. Third, it requires DHHS to amend its rules governing adult family care services to provide reimbursement for up to 30 bed hold days per calendar year when a resident is absent from a facility. Finally, it requires DHHS to amend its rules to include the cost of health insurance for employees attributable to MaineCare residents as a fixed cost. It also requires the department to amend these rules to include reimbursement for 50% of a nursing facility's charges for a maximum of 6 months for a newly admitted resident who is determined to be financially ineligible for MaineCare after the resident is admitted to the nursing facility and the charges remain unpaid after reasonable efforts are made by the nursing facility to collect the debt based on these charges.

LD 1591 An Act To Provide Access to Health Care for Maine Citizens

Sponsor: *Rep. Brennan* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073432>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 5/9/2019 1:00 PM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill would re-base the hospital tax to calendar year 2018.

It provides no match to hospitals.

It proposes to use the entire amount of the tax to expand the Medicare Buy-in Program and for subsidies under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Current law provides that each hospital may voluntarily hold its consolidated operating margin to no more than 3% and its increase in its expense per case mix-adjusted inpatient and volume-adjusted outpatient discharge to no more than 110% of the forecasted increase in the hospital market basket index for the coming federal fiscal year. The bill does not change those percentages but requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually establish recommended percentages for each hospital.

The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with relevant other state agencies, federal agencies and interested parties, to design a wholesale prescription drug importation program. It requires the department to submit the design for the wholesale prescription drug importation program to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services and authorizes the committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.



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LD 1611 An Act To Support Universal Health Care

Sponsor: Rep. Brooks <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073494>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: 5/9/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill establishes the Maine Health Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all residents of this State. The bill is modeled on proposed legislation considered in Minnesota.

LD 1617 An Act To Create a Single-payer Health Care Program in Maine

Sponsor: Rep. Sylvester <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073506>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 5/9/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill establishes a single-payer health care program in the State that provides health care services for Maine residents. The bill directs DHHS to consult with the Department of Labor and the Bureau of Insurance to develop the program. The bill requires the State to implement the program in 3 phases, based on income, beginning in 2022 for those residents not eligible for the MaineCare program. The bill also creates the Single-payer Implementation Task Force to advise the departments and make recommendations to fully implement the single-payer health care program. The program may not be implemented in 2022 without prior legislative approval.

LD 1630 Resolve, To Ensure Access to Opiate Addiction Treatment

Sponsor: Speaker Gideon <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073569>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 5/9/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to set the weekly MaineCare reimbursement rate paid to outpatient opioid treatment providers at \$110 per week, or at a higher rate if the department determines a higher rate is justified.

LD 1639 An Act To Require Comprehensive Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects

Sponsor: President Jackso <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073579>

Labor & Housing **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: **Final Status:**

This bill imposes several new requirements on publicly-funded construction projects.

LD 1650 An Act To Strengthen Consumer Protections in Health Care

Sponsor: Rep. Tipping <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073615>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: 5/2/2019 1:30 PM **Final Status:**

This bill makes changes to the rating provisions for individual and small group health insurance plans to reduce the rating band for age and to require that the ratio on the basis of geographic area is 1.5 to 1 and that the ratio for age and geographic area may not exceed 2.5. The changes in the bill reinstate the rating provisions in place before the enactment of Public Law 2011, chapter 90.



LD 1655 An Act To Improve and Modernize Home-based Care

Sponsor: Rep. Meyer <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073620>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing: 5/3/2019 9:00 AM

Final Status: APP TBL CO

This bill:

1. Establishes the Social Determinants of Health Stakeholder Advisory Group to collaborate with providers of home health care services and other services relating to the social determinants of health and make recommendations to DHHS;
2. Provides for reimbursement for telehealth or telemonitoring private duty nursing, home health services and personal care services for an adult MaineCare member with a physical disability or an adult who is elderly who is receiving MaineCare waiver services.
3. Expands the duties of the Maine Telehealth and Telemonitoring Advisory Group to include making recommendations about home technology to the DHHS;
4. Directs the DHHS, beginning in 2020 and at least every 2 years thereafter to review the rates for providers of services under a waiver for home-based and community-based services or state-funded home-based and community-based support services;
5. Directs DHHS to amend its rules for services provided under Sections 19, 40 and 96 and rule Chapter 5, Office of Elder Services Policy Manual, Section 63 so that:
 - A. A certified nurse practitioner and a physician assistant may authorize or amend a plan of care; and
 - B. Reimbursement is provided for activities performed outside of the home by a registered nurse that are directly related to a member's care and are part of the member's plan of care;
6. Directs DHHS to convene a work group to review options for adjusting rates in order to provide health care coverage and paid sick leave to home-based and community-based care providers and to report the recommendations of the work group to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services; and
7. Directs DHHS to review its in-person supervisory requirement for home-based and community-based care providers to determine whether the use of technology that provides interactive, real-time communication is feasible and practical and to report its recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee.

LD 1660 An Act To Improve Access to Physician Assistant Care

Sponsor: Sen. Sanborn <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=28007360>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 5/8/2019 2:00 PM

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 627

In Part A, the law requires health insurance carriers to allow physician assistants to serve as primary care providers under managed care plans. It also specifies that carriers are required to provide coverage for services provided by physician assistants if those services are within a physician assistant's scope of practice and are covered services under a health plan and makes that provision applicable to contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2021. In Part B, the law makes the following changes to the laws governing the licensing and scope of practice of physician assistants.

1. It increases the membership of the Board of Osteopathic Licensure and the Board of Licensure in Medicine from 10 to 11 members by changing the number of members on each board who are physician assistants from one member to 2 members.
 2. It establishes provisions for the scope of practice of physician assistants based on practice setting.
 3. It removes registration and physician supervisory requirements and establishes requirements for physician assistants to have collaborative agreements and practice agreements with physicians and other health care professionals.
 4. It clarifies that physician assistants are legally responsible for any medical services provided in accordance with collaborative and practice agreements and authorizes the licensing boards to adopt rules related to requirements for collaborative and practice agreements.
 5. It changes the fee for an application for initial licensure from up to \$250 to up to \$300.
 6. It provides a transition provision for physician assistant licenses that are current and not under investigation.
- In Part C, the law adds an appropriations and allocations section.



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LD 1661 An Act To Create the Drug Donation and Redispensing Program

Sponsor: *Sen. Claxton* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073608>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 5/8/2019 2:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill establishes the drug donation and redispensing program under DHHS. The program collects donations of unused prescription and legend drugs from health care providers, health care facilities and other sources, including at drop-off locations throughout the State, and redispenses the drugs through participating pharmacies to qualified low-income persons.

LD 1662 An Act To Save Lives by Establishing the Low Barrier Opioid Treatment Response Program

Sponsor: *Sen. Claxton* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073609>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 5/2/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill requires DHHS to establish the Low Barrier Opioid Treatment Response Program in Maine's federally qualified health centers to improve the availability of medication-assisted treatment and enhance the effectiveness of acute care responses to persons in urgent need of treatment for substance use disorders. The department is required to implement the program on a pilot basis initially and expand the program statewide. The department is required to report findings on these subjects and on initial pilot implementation to the Health and Human Services Committee no later than January 15, 2020.

LD 1673 An Act To Prohibit Prescription Drug Advertising

Sponsor: *Sen. Chipman* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073679>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill amends current law, which allows the advertising of prescription drugs only if the advertisement is not misleading, to ban completely, beginning January 1, 2020, the advertising of prescription drugs, either by broadcast by a television or radio station in this State, over the Internet from a location in this State or in a magazine or newspaper printed, distributed or sold in this State. A violation is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

LD 1689 An Act To Address the Opioid Crisis through Evidence-based Public Health Policy

Sponsor: *Sen. Sanborn* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073754>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 5/13/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** APP TBL CO

This bill expands the scope and capabilities of hypodermic apparatus exchange programs certified by the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



LD 1755 An Act To Move Maine Toward Affordable Health Care for Everyone

Sponsor: *Pres. Jackson* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280074017>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** TABLED
Public Hearing: **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to submit a waiver under Section 1332 to establish a MaineCare purchase option so that residents of Maine who are not otherwise eligible for the MaineCare program may participate in the program. The waiver must include authority for individuals who qualify for advance tax credits and cost-sharing credits to use them to purchase coverage through the MaineCare program. The commissioner is required to implement mechanisms to ensure the long-term sustainability of the MaineCare purchase option. Rates are set by the Department of Health and Human Services and determined actuarially, and the open enrollment period is the same as the period for individuals purchasing insurance on the federal exchange.

LD 1758 An Act To Clarify and Amend MaineCare Reimbursement Provisions for Nursing and Residential Care Facilities

Sponsor: *President Jackso* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280074023>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 5/23/2019 1:00 PM **Final Status:** PL 2019, CH 533

This law is emergency legislation to require DHHS to amend the department's rules regarding MaineCare reimbursement of nursing facility and residential care facility costs, including:
Extension of the 10% one-time supplemental payment provided in Public Law 2017, chapter 460, Part B to nursing facilities and residential care facilities to continue in successive years until rebasing incorporates the increase. It further requires an additional 10% increase that is carried forward until rebasing incorporates the increase.

LD 1809 Resolve, To Increase Funding for Evidence-based Therapies for Treating Emotional and Behavioral Problems in Children

Sponsor: *Rep. Madigan* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280074344>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: **Final Status:** RESOLVE 2019, CH 110

This resolve requires DHHS to increase reimbursement rates for multisystemic therapy, multisystemic therapy for problem sexualized behavior and functional family therapy by 20% until June 30, 2020. It requires the department to contract for a 3rd-party rate study of the reimbursement rates for those therapies, including developing a rate set on a per case per week basis rather than the current 15-minute increments. The rate study must be completed no later than December 1, 2019 (obviously, that date is now moot; DHHS has indicated it is going forward with a broad rate study; results of that study will be available in March, 2021).

LD 1822 An Act To Protect Access to Services for Adults with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness

Sponsor: *Rep. Gattine* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280074407>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: 1/13/2020 10:00 AM **Final Status:**

This bill establishes the right of an adult with serious and persistent mental illness who is denied access to certain services by a provider contrary to the terms of the provider's contract with the Department of Health and Human Services to seek informal department review of the provider's action and informal dispute resolution by the department to facilitate access to the service. If the adult continues to be denied access to the mental health service following department review, the adult may bring a private civil action in Superior Court for injunctive relief to enforce the terms of the provider's contract with the department. The bill requires the department to adopt routine technical rules governing the process for informal department review, which must include a definition of "adult with serious and persistent mental illness."



LD 1838 Resolve, Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services To Examine Options for Upper Payment Limit Adjustments for MaineCare Services

Sponsor: <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP1309&SessionID=13>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: APP TBL

Public Hearing:

Final Status: RESOLVE 2019, CH 111

This resolve requires DHHS to examine upper payment limit options to increase the federally approved limits for services provided under MaineCare. The department may contract with any consultant or 3rd-party organization that the department determines appropriate for this purpose (\$13,000 is set-aside for this study). The department may also consult with any stakeholders that the department determines appropriate.

LD 1854 An Act To Increase the Minimum Amount of Insurance Coverage Required for Medical Payments for Vehicle Liability Insurance

Sponsor: *Rep. Moonen* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075675>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 1/8/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000 the amount of minimum medical payment coverage for motor vehicle liability policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2021.

LD 1856 Resolve, To Support Individuals with Acute Mental Health Needs

Sponsor: *Rep. Mastraccio* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075677>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 2/20/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status:

This resolve requires DHHS to amend its Section 45.03 rates to provide reimbursement for patients discharged from Southern Maine Health Care's psychiatric inpatient unit in the amount of \$13,396.47 per distinct discharge; the amended rule must be submitted to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in time for the increased rate of reimbursement to apply beginning July 1, 2020.

LD 1873 An Act To Improve Response to Sudden Cardiac Arrest by Requiring Training in the Delivery of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Methods by Telecommunications Technology

Sponsor: *Rep. Martin* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075721>

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status: DEAD

This bill defines "emergency services telecommunicator" and requires all emergency services telecommunicators that provide dispatch for calls involving emergency medical conditions to be trained in the delivery of cardiopulmonary resuscitation methods by telecommunications technology. The training must incorporate recognition protocols for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction and provide for continuing education. The bill requires the Department of Public Safety and the Emergency Services Communication Bureau within the Public Utilities Commission to establish a procedure to monitor compliance and allows the department to sanction noncompliance by adjusting funding.



LD 1900 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Motor Vehicle Child Restraint Systems To Allow Certain Exceptions

Sponsor: Sen. Cyrway <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075733>

Transportation **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 1/21/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** PL 2019, CH 577

This bill amends the laws governing motor vehicle child restraint systems to provide exceptions for children who exceed a manufacturer's recommended height limit and for children who have a medical condition that necessitates a different child restraint system.

LD 1911 An Act To Amend the Unemployment Compensation Laws

Sponsor: Sen. Bellows <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075739>

Labor & Housing **Committee Status:** OTP
Public Hearing: 1/22/2020 9:30 AM **Final Status:** PL 2019, CH 585

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing unemployment compensation.

1. Current law provides that, beginning January 1, 2022, benefits paid to an individual under the laws governing unemployment compensation must be charged against the experience rating record of the claimant's employers in a ratio inversely proportional to the claimant's employment beginning with the most recent employer. This bill strikes that language and instead restores the previous language governing the employer benefit charging model.
2. It provides that the experience rating record of the most recent subject employer may not be charged with benefits paid to a claimant whose work record with that employer totals 5 or fewer consecutive weeks.
3. It provides that, in the absence of an application for redetermination filed within 30 days after the mailing of notification of benefits paid and chargeable to the employer's experience rating, the notification is conclusive and binding. Under the bill, any request for reconsideration must be made under the laws governing appeals of determination or assessment.

LD 1923 An Act To Define as a Hazardous Substance under Maine Law Any Substance Defined under Federal Law as a Hazardous Substance, Pollutant or Contaminant

Sponsor: Rep. Fay <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075827>

Environment & Natural Resources **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: **Final Status:**

This bill amends the definition of "hazardous substance" in the laws governing uncontrolled hazardous substance sites by including substances defined as hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.

LD 1928 An Act To Prohibit Health Insurance Carriers from Retroactively Reducing Payment on Clean Claims Submitted by Pharmacies

Sponsor: Sen. Libby <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075821>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Coverage **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: 1/23/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** PL 2019 643

Current law prohibits an employer from requesting the social security number of a prospective employee. This law provides an exception to the prohibition when the employer is required to request the social security number by federal law.



LD 1934 An Act Regarding Prior Authorization for Medication-assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder under the MaineCare Program

Sponsor: Rep. Stover <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075864>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 1/22/2020 9:00 AM

Final Status: PL 2019 CH 645

1. It clarifies that the prior authorization limitations in the bill apply to medication-assisted treatment and intensive outpatient therapy services for a diagnosis of opioid use disorder.
2. It allows the Department of Health and Human Services to require prior authorization under the MaineCare program when a dosage increase exceeds the department's dosing criteria as identified on the department's MaineCare preferred drug list.
3. It authorizes the department to adopt routine technical rules to implement the prior authorization limitations.
4. It states that the prior authorization limitations must be applied in a manner that is not inconsistent with the requirements of the Medicaid drug rebate program.

LD 1935 An Act To Address the Needs of Pregnant Women Affected by Opioid Use Disorder

Sponsor: Rep. Roberts <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075866>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 1/22/2020 9:00 AM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill directs DHHS to administer a program to provide grants for the treatment of pregnant women with opioid use disorder. It establishes the Fund for the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder and directs the State Controller to transfer \$1,000,000 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to that fund.

LD 1937 An Act To Provide Timely Access to Behavioral Health Services for Maine Children and To Address Trauma and the Impacts of the Opioid Crisis

Sponsor: Rep. Gramlich <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075695>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 1/30/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status:

This bill provides funding to increase rates for adolescent rehabilitation facilities under the DHHS Section 97, Section 65, and Section 97, by 30% no later than July 1, 2020. The fiscal note requires \$34M in General Fund appropriations.

LD 1939 Resolve, To Ensure High-quality Long-term Care for Maine Veterans

Sponsor: Rep. O'Neil <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075870>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 1/28/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: DEAD

This resolve directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes to increase the required staff-to-patient ratio at Maine Veterans' Homes for long-term care to 3 staff to 15 patients and the Department of Health and Human Services to increase MaineCare reimbursement rates for certified nursing assistants by 10%.



Maine Hospital Association

33 Fuller Road, Augusta, Maine 04330

Tel.: 207/622-4794; Fax: 207/622-3073; Website: www.themha.org

LD 1940 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Targeted Case Management Services To Reflect Inflation

Sponsor: Rep. Meyer <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075876>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 1/30/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status:

This resolve requires DHHS to amend its rules governing MaineCare reimbursement for targeted case management services to provide an increase reflecting cost increases from 2010 to 2019.

LD 1944 An Act To Expand Eligibility for Home Accessibility Adaptation Benefits under the MaineCare Program

Sponsor: Rep. Tepler <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075699>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 1/28/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill extends the current home accessibility adaptations available to MaineCare members receiving services under Sections 21 and 29 to persons providing shared living housing to a member receiving these services. The bill also requires that DHHS evaluate the effectiveness of contracts for services for adults with diagnoses of intellectual disabilities or other developmental disabilities.

LD 1946 An Act To Improve Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care by Providing Care in Clinical Reproductive and Sexual Health Care Settings

Sponsor: Rep. McCreight <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075702>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status:

Public Hearing: 2/4/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status:

This bill establishes a program within DHHS to deliver mental health and behavioral health services in clinical reproductive and sexual health care settings through the deployment of licensed mental health professionals in those settings and by enhancing patient screening and care coordination. It includes an appropriations and allocations section with a \$150,000 annual appropriation beginning in fiscal year 2020-21.

LD 1948 An Act To Prohibit, Except in Emergency Situations, the Performance without Consent of Pelvic Examinations on Unconscious or Anesthetized Patients

Sponsor: Rep. Doudera <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075706>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 1/28/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: PL 2019 CH 602

This bill provides that, prior to administering or supervising a pelvic examination on an anesthetized or unconscious patient, a physician must obtain the patient's informed consent to the pelvic examination unless the examination is within the scope of the procedure or examination for which the patient has already consented, the pelvic examination of an unconscious patient is required for diagnostic purposes and is medically necessary or the pelvic examination is authorized pursuant to the implied consent provision in the Maine Health Security Act relating to forensic examinations of unconscious alleged victims of sexual assault.



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LD 1950 An Act To Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State

Sponsor: Rep. Craven <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075711>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 1/27/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill directs DHHS to provide reimbursement under the MaineCare program for palliative care. It also requires the department to adopt rules that support and standardize the delivery of palliative care in the State. 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.

LD 1951 An Act To Assist Persons with Disabilities Who Are Subject to Pill Count Requirements

Sponsor: Rep. Madigan <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075713>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 1/22/2020 9:00 AM **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill requires that procedures established pursuant to opioid medication policies adopted by health care entities provide accommodations for patients with disabilities who are subject to pill count requirements.

LD 1955 An Act To Promote Cost-effectiveness in the MaineCare Program and Improve the Oral Health of Maine Adults and Children

Sponsor: Rep. Gattine <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075868>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/25/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill adds comprehensive, medically necessary preventive, diagnostic and restorative dental services to the limited dental services currently available to MaineCare members 21 years of age and over. The department is required to provide a 5-year report on costs and savings relating to the comprehensive adult dental benefit to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and appropriations and financial affairs no later than January 1, 2026.

LD 1957 An Act To Provide Women Access to Affordable Postpartum Care

Sponsor: Rep. Carney <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075871>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 1/23/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** PTBE

This bill extends from 60 days to 12 months the period of time following delivery of a baby that a woman may be eligible for services under MaineCare.

LD 1961 An Act To Establish the Trust for a Healthy Maine

Sponsor: Rep. Keschl <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075875>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: 1/22/2020 2:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill establishes the Trust for a Healthy Maine to receive money paid to the State pursuant to the tobacco settlement and from other sources and to distribute that money to state agencies or designated agents of the State to fund tobacco use prevention and control, ensure adequate resources for other disease prevention efforts, promote public health, plan and deliver public health and prevention programs and services, support accreditation of the Maine CDC and support public health workforce development. The trust is governed by a board of trustees appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders.



LD 1970 An Act To Establish Electronic Visit Verification for In-home and Community-based Health Care Workers

Sponsor: *Sen. Claxton* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075830>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 1/28/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill governs the implementation by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services of the federal requirements for electronic visit verification with respect to personal care services and home health care services for adults with long-term care needs under the federal 21st Century Cures Act.

LD 1972 An Act To Increase Access to and Reduce the Cost of Epinephrine Autoinjectors by Amending the Definition of "Epinephrine Autoinjector"

Sponsor: *Sen. Sanborn* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075831>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 1/21/2020 1:30 PM **Final Status:** PL 2018 CH 560

This law amends the definition of "epinephrine autoinjector" in different areas of Maine law to include devices approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration that deliver a specific dose of epinephrine by means other than automatic injection of epinephrine into the human body. The law nges references to epinephrine pen to epinephrine autoinjector.

LD 1974 An Act To Promote Telehealth

Sponsor: *Sen. Gratwick* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075833>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: 1/24/2020 2:00 PM **Final Status:** PL 2019 CH 649

This law directs DHHS to amend its rules (Section 4, Telehealth and Section 13, Targeted Case Management Services) to provide for reimbursement of case management services delivered through telehealth to targeted populations. The bill makes other changes necessary for the delivery of telehealth services to be expanded to include case management services.

The law clarifies that telehealth services reimbursable under a health plan or the MaineCare program include consultation between health professionals regarding a patient, whether the consultation occurs in real time or asynchronously.

It provides that private insurance carriers may provide coverage for health care services delivered through telehealth that is consistent with the Medicare coverage policy for interprofessional Internet consultations and provides that if a carrier provides such coverage the carrier may also provide coverage for interprofessional Internet consultations that are provided by a federally qualified health center or rural health clinic.

LD 1984 An Act To Eliminate Waiting Lists for Home and Community-based Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, Brain Injury and Other Related Conditions

Sponsor: *Sen. Millett* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075843>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/25/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill amends the system of care for adults with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain injury and other related conditions to reduce and eliminate MaineCare waiver waiting lists for home and community-based services.



LD 1986 An Act To Clarify the Law Protecting Job Applicants from Identity Theft

Sponsor: *Sen. Bellows* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075845>

Labor & Housing

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status: PL 2019 CH 567

Current law prohibits an employer from requesting the social security number of a prospective employee. This law provides an exception to the prohibition when the employer is required to request the social security number by federal law.

LD 1990 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Access to Prescription Monitoring Information

Sponsor: *Sen. Carpenter* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075849>

Judiciary

Committee Status:

Public Hearing: 1/29/2020 1:30 PM

Final Status:

This bill expands the list of persons that may access prescription monitoring information to include the United States Attorney for the District of Maine in specified instances and the Attorney General under the laws governing unfair trade practices.

LD 1996 An Act Concerning the Reporting of Health Care Information to the Emergency Medical Services' Board

Sponsor: *Sen. Sanborn* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075855>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 1/21/2020 1:30 PM

Final Status:

This bill amends the laws governing the reporting of health care information to the Maine Emergency Medical Services' Board. The bill allows the board to collect or receive health care information or records, including information or records that identify a patient. The bill requires hospitals and physicians, upon request by the board for the purpose of evaluating follow-up assessment and treatment by physicians and hospitals and determining health outcomes, to provide health care information concerning individuals who have received emergency medical treatment. The bill also makes the reportable health care information confidential. Personally identifiable trauma information is already confidential.

LD 2007 An Act To Enact the Made for Maine Health Coverage Act and Improve Health Choices in Maine

Sponsor: *Speaker Gideon* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075926>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status:

Public Hearing: 2/5/2020 10:00 AM

Final Status: PL 2019 CH 653

Current law prohibits an employer from requesting the social security number of a prospective employee. This law provides an exception to the prohibition when the employer is required to request the social security number by federal law.



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Tel.: 207/622-4794; Fax: 207/622-3073; Website: www.themha.org

LD 2025 An Act To Authorize Emergency Medical Services Personnel To Provide Treatment within Their Scope of Practice in a Hospital Setting with the Permission of the Hospital

Sponsor: *Pres. Jackson* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075959>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 1/28/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: PL 2019 CH 609

Current law prohibits an employer from requesting the social security number of a prospective employee. This law provides an exception to the prohibition when the employer is required to request the social security number by federal law.

LD 2029 An Act To Make March Maine Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Sponsor: *Sen. Keim* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075955>

State & Local Government

Committee Status:

Public Hearing: 1/27/2020 10:00 AM

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 569

This bill establishes March of each year as Maine Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

LD 2040 An Act To Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Retain Paper Copies of Certain Vital Statistics Records

Sponsor: *Rep. Bailey* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075993>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 611

This law eliminates municipal paper record retention requirements for maintaining death disposition permits and requires those permits to be maintained in the electronic death registration system.

LD 2042 Resolve, To Allow the Department of Public Safety To Transfer Certain Property to the LifeFlight Foundation

Sponsor: *Rep. Warren* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075998>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status: RESOLVE 2019 CH 129

Current law prohibits an employer from requesting the social security number of a prospective employee. This law provides an exception to the prohibition when the employer is required to request the social security number by federal law.

LD 2046 An Act Regarding Immunizations

Sponsor: *Rep. Tipping* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075996>

Education & Cultural Affairs

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill cleans-up a few minor issues in the vaccination bill enacted last year. It exempts children who are enrolled in or attend a virtual public charter school from the immunization requirement and also amends the law to include persons who are 18 years of age or younger and are enrolled in or have been offered enrollment in a college in the State. The bill also corrects an error in the law enacted last year by providing that the exemption from immunization requirements based on religious or philosophical beliefs for employees of health care facilities takes effect September 1, 2021. The correction is contingent on Public Law 2019, chapter 154 being ratified by a majority of voters and taking effect in accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17.



LD 2050 An Act To Establish the Central Aroostook County Emergency Medical Services Authority

Sponsor: *Sen. Carpenter* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076006>

Committee Status: OTP

Public Hearing:

Final Status: P&S 2019, CH 17

This bill establishes the Central Aroostook County Emergency Medical Services Authority to facilitate the provision of emergency medical services to the citizens of Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine. The bill includes an emergency preamble and an emergency clause.

LD 2054 An Act To Consolidate Certain Reporting Requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services

Sponsor: *Sen. Gratwick* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076007>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTP

Public Hearing: 2/3/2020 10:00 AM

Final Status: PL 2019 CH 612

This law consolidates reporting requirements regarding DHHS planning for and activities concerning the State's aging population and incapacitated and dependent adults and the department's quality assurance review committee's recommendations and activities. It also repeals requirements for annual press releases and reports by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services regarding department spending, welfare fraud-related statistics, contracting services, grants received from the Federal Government and total out-of-state travel costs for employees.

LD 2057 An Act To Ensure an Efficient Contracting Process for the Department of Health and Human Services

Sponsor: *Rep. Hymanson* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076014>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTP

Public Hearing: 2/3/2020 10:00 AM

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 590

This bill amends the law regarding performance-based contracts entered into by DHHS to give the Commissioner discretion in holding informational meetings and requiring notices of intent to bid. The bill also repeals duplicative language regarding performance-based contracts.

LD 2059 An Act To Clarify the Provision for Care of Infants after Birth

Sponsor: *Rep. Hymanson* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076016>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTPA

Public Hearing: 2/4/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 613

This law makes the following changes to the laws governing the administration of prophylactic ophthalmic ointment and vitamin K injections to infant that was enacted last year:

1. It specifies that the incidence of inflamed or reddened eyes in an infant be reported to the infant's primary care provider rather than to an unspecified physician;
2. It removes language that the ophthalmic ointment is provided without cost by DHHS; and
3. It requires the department to develop a form to be used by a parent wishing to refuse the prophylactic ophthalmic ointment or vitamin K injection.



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33 Fuller Road, Augusta, Maine 04330

Tel.: 207/622-4794; Fax: 207/622-3073; Website: www.themha.org

LD 2068 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 15: Death with Dignity Act Reporting Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Sponsor: <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076126>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** DIV RPT
Public Hearing: 2/25/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** RESOLVE 2019, CH 130

This resolve adopts portions of Chapter 15: Death with Dignity Act Reporting Rule, a major substantive rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

LD 2076 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 40: Rule for Medication Administration in Maine Schools, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

Sponsor: <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076149>

Education & Cultural Affairs **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/10/2020 10:00 AM **Final Status:**

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 40: Rule for Medication Administration in Maine Schools, a major substantive rule of the Department of Education.

LD 2078 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization

Sponsor: <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076151>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/11/2020 1:30 PM **Final Status:** RESOLVE 2019, CH 123

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a major substantive rule of the Maine Health Data Organization.

LD 2080 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 104: Maine State Services Manual, Section 8, Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services

Sponsor: <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076157>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/11/2020 1:30 PM **Final Status:** RESOLVE 2019, CH 136

This resolve adopts portions of Chapter 104: Maine State Services Manual, Section 8, Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program, a major substantive rule of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The legislature required three amendments to the proposed rule:

1. The rule must be amended in Section 8.01 in the last sentence to provide that the department shall submit an application no later than May 1, 2020, and, if the federal rule is not finalized prior to May 1, 2020, that the department shall submit a subsequent or revised application as soon as practicable after finalization of the federal rule.
2. The rule must be amended in Section 8.02 by amending the time allowed for input from between January 1, 2020 and July 1, 2020 to between January 1, 2020 and March 16, 2020 and to allow for additional input from stakeholders as necessary after the federal rule is finalized.
3. The rule must be amended in Section 8.03 to require the department, following the conclusion of the stakeholder input process and as required by Title 5, section 2042, to submit an application to the United States DHHS to establish a state importation program no later than May 1, 2020. The rule must be amended to also require that, if the final federal rule is not released before May 1, 2020, the department shall submit a subsequent or revised application to establish a state importation program as soon as is practicable after the release of the final federal rule. The rule must be amended to also require that, if the department determines further rulemaking is necessary to implement the requirements of the program design, additional rules will be proposed.



LD 2087 An Act Relating to Fair Chance in Employment

Sponsor: Rep. Ross <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076205>

Labor & Housing

Committee Status: DIV RPT

Public Hearing: 2/19/2020 10:00 AM

Final Status:

This bill prohibits an employer from requesting criminal history record information on an initial employee application form, subject to certain exceptions. An employer may inquire about a prospective employee's criminal history record information during an interview or once the prospective employee has been determined otherwise qualified for the position. The bill prohibits an employer from stating on an initial employee application form or advertisement or otherwise asserting that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for a position, subject to certain exceptions. The bill provides that if an employer inquires about a prospective employee's criminal history record information, the prospective employee, if still eligible for the position under applicable federal or state law, must be afforded an opportunity to explain the information and the circumstances regarding any convictions, including post-conviction rehabilitation.

LD 2095 An Act To Require Appropriate Coverage of and Cost-sharing for Generic Drugs and Biosimilars

Sponsor: Pres. Jackson <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076399>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status:

Public Hearing: 3/3/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: DEAD

This bill establishes requirements for the coverage of and cost-sharing for generic drugs, biosimilars and branded pharmaceuticals when dispensed by pharmacies as outpatient prescription drugs under health plans offered by carriers that provide coverage for prescription drugs.

LD 2096 An Act To Save Lives by Capping the Out-of-pocket Cost of Certain Medications

Sponsor: Speaker Gideon <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076444>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status: ONTP

Public Hearing: 2/25/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 666

This law provides that a health insurance carrier that provides coverage for prescription insulin drugs may not impose a cost-sharing requirement on the enrollee that results in out-of-pocket costs to the enrollee in excess of \$100 per 30-day supply of insulin.

LD 2105 An Act To Protect Consumers from Surprise Emergency Medical Bills

Sponsor: Speaker Gideon <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP1501&SessionID=13>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services

Committee Status:

Public Hearing: 2/25/2020 1:00 PM

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 668

The law amends the law providing consumer protection for surprise medical bills to include surprise bills for emergency services and also extends the same protections to bills for covered emergency services rendered by out-of-network providers. It clarifies that consumers must be held harmless and not subject to balance billing for these services and specifies that consumers are responsible only for any applicable cost sharing determined as if the health care services were rendered by a network provider.

In the event of a dispute with respect to only a surprise bill for emergency services or a bill for covered emergency services rendered by an out-of-network provider, the law directs the Superintendent of Insurance to develop an independent dispute resolution process to determine a reasonable payment for health care services beginning no later than October 1, 2020.

It also requires the Emergency Medical Services' Board to convene a stakeholder group to review reimbursement rates for ambulance services.



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33 Fuller Road, Augusta, Maine 04330

Tel.: 207/622-4794; Fax: 207/622-3073; Website: www.themha.org

LD2106 An Act Regarding Prior Authorizations for Prescription Drugs

Sponsor: *Sen. Gratwick* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076590>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 3/3/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill makes the following changes.

1. It adds a definition of "prior authorization" and clarifies the definitions of "medically necessary health care" and "participating provider" used in the Maine Insurance Code, chapter 56-A.
2. It sets forth additional requirements for carriers to facilitate the processing of prior authorization requests for prescription drugs by providers.

LD2107 An Act To Amend the Nursing Facility Licensing Rules To Enhance Cost of Care Collection

Sponsor: <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP1503&SessionID=13>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/26/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill requires DHHS to amend its nursing facility rules, to modify the standard admission contract for the residents of nursing homes to specifically include a requirement for a resident's legal agent to use the resident's financial resources to pay for nursing facility services and to clarify that a nursing facility seeking relief when a resident's agent fails to perform the agent's obligations may also request attorney's fees and costs. The department is required to amend the rule no later than January 1, 2021.

LD2109 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues

Sponsor: <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=HP1504&SessionID=13>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/26/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill implements the recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues, which was established by Part BBBB, section 1 of the budget. The bill does the following.

1. It requires direct care workers across the long-term care spectrum to be paid no less than 125% of the minimum wage. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules that take into account the cost of this increased wage in its reimbursement rates.
2. It requires DHHS to increase reimbursement rates under Chapter 101 and any state-funded programs to take into account costs of providing care and services in conformity with applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, training requirements and quality and safety standards, including, but not limited to, increases in the minimum wage, earned paid leave, electronic visit verification, background checks and other costs that are not provided for in the current reimbursement rates.
3. It establishes a long-term care workforce oversight advisory committee to collect and compile data related to workforce shortages and services provided to clients, review progress by DHHS regarding recommendations provided to the department and the Legislature.

LD2110 An Act To Lower Health Care Costs

Sponsor: *President Jackso* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076628>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** APP TBL
Public Hearing: 2/25/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill establishes the Maine Commission on Affordable Health Care to monitor health care spending growth in the State and also set health care quality benchmarks. The bill also requires the commission to establish health care spending targets for public payors, including separate targets for prescription drugs.



LD2111 An Act To Establish Patient Protections in Billing for Health Care

Sponsor: *Sen. Claxton* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?paper=SP0756&SessionID=13>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:** OTPA
Public Hearing: 2/25/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** PL 2019, CH 670

This law makes the following changes.

1. It requires a health care entity to disclose to a federal Medicare patient who is on observation status in a single notice the required disclosure of that status required by federal Medicare rules, that the patient's observation status may have an impact on the patient's financial liability and that the patient may meet with a representative from the health care entity's financial office to discuss the patient's potential financial liability.
2. It requires that a provider receiving a nonemergency referral to disclose to the patient whether the provider is an out-of-network provider.
3. It prohibits a health care entity from charging any fee for the transfer of a patient between providers or for the transfer of patient records between providers unless the fee is disclosed and directly related to the costs associated with making that transfer of the patient or the patient's medical records.

LD2116 An Act To Improve Prescription Information Access

Sponsor: *Rep. Craven* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076695>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: 3/3/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** DEAD

This bill amends the provisions of law governing the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program to require dispensers to report all prescription drugs dispensed intended for human consumption rather than controlled substances only, allowing the program database to be used for medication reconciliation and other patient safety activities. The enhanced program allows pharmacists and all prescribers to obtain a complete record of all medication prescribed to a patient, identifying the prescriber for each drug and listing the dates on which each prescription was filled. This information gives health care providers additional means to ensure that patients do not have adverse reactions due to incompatible drug interactions or overprescribing of medications from multiple prescribers. The program name is changed to the Prescription Monitoring Program to reflect its wider scope. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for federal funds and seek other funding sources to develop the improvements to the program.

LD2117 An Act To Expand and Rename the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program

Sponsor: *Rep. Hymanson* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076696>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** ONTP
Public Hearing: 3/10/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:**

This bill amends the provisions of law governing the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program to require dispensers to report all prescription drugs dispensed intended for human consumption rather than controlled substances only, allowing the program database to be used for medication reconciliation and other patient safety activities. The enhanced program allows pharmacists and all prescribers to obtain a complete record of all medication prescribed to a patient, identifying the prescriber for each drug and listing the dates on which each prescription was filled. This information gives health care providers additional means to ensure that patients do not have adverse reactions due to incompatible drug interactions or overprescribing of medications from multiple prescribers. The program name is changed to the Prescription Monitoring Program to reflect its wider scope. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for federal funds and seek other funding sources to develop the improvements to the program.



LD 2119 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maternal, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Panel

Sponsor: <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076717>

Health & Human Services **Committee Status:** OTP
Public Hearing: 3/3/2020 1:00 PM **Final Status:** PL 2019, CH 671

This law amends the laws governing the maternal, fetal and infant mortality review panel to require the review of maternal deaths that occur within one year of giving birth. Current law requires the panel to review maternal deaths that occur within 42 days of giving birth.

LD 2126 An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021

Sponsor: *Rep. Gattine* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076717>

Appropriations & Financial Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: **Final Status:** PL 2019, CH 616

Supplemental budget.

LD 2133 An Act To Implement Recommendations for Review of the Licensing Laws for Certain Licensed Health Professionals Pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act

Sponsor: <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076816>

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: 3/11/2020 2:00 PM **Final Status:**

The bill implements recommendations related to the committee's review of the Board of Licensure in Medicine, the Board of Osteopathic Licensure, the State Board of Nursing, the State Board of Optometry and the Board of Dental Practice.

The bill directs each board, in consultation with interested parties, to review the licensing laws and rules for the board and to recommend changes to update those laws and rules no later than February 15, 2021.

LD 2134 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Infrastructure To Improve Transportation and Internet Connections

Sponsor: *Rep. Gattine* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076840>

Appropriations and Financial Services **Committee Status:**
Public Hearing: **Final Status:** PL 2019, CH 673

The funds provided by the bond issue under Part A, in the amount of \$105,000,000, will be used for improvement of highways and bridges statewide and for multimodal facilities or equipment related to transit, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, ports, harbors, marine transportation and active transportation projects, to be matched by an estimated \$275,000,000 in federal and other funds.

The funds provided by the bond issue under Part B, in the amount of \$15,000,000, will be used for investments in high-speed internet infrastructure for unserved and underserved areas, to be matched by up to \$30,000,000 in federal, private, local or other funds.



LD 2137 Resolve, To Increase the Reimbursement Rates for Home-based Services

Sponsor: *Sen. Bellows* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076839>

Health & Human Services

Committee Status: OTP

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This resolve increases hourly Medicaid reimbursement rates by 40% for attendant services in Sections 12, 19, 96 and for consumer directed services under Chapter 11 and participant driven services under Chapter 5, section 63. It increases rates by 53.5% for personal support services in Sections 19 and 96 as well as in Chapter 5 section 63. Total cost for the bill is \$4.4 million in general fund dollars.



LD 2145 An Act To Help Veterans Access Jobs, Education, Health Care and Housing and Provide General Support to Veterans

Sponsor: *Sen. Carpenter* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076911>

Veteran's & Legal Affairs

Committee Status: OTP

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to establish a bill of rights to help veterans access jobs, education, health care and housing and provide general support to veterans.

1. The bill would help veterans access jobs by:

- A. Requiring the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to waive licensing fees for veterans;
- B. Requiring licensing boards affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to waive licensing fees for veterans;
- C. Expanding eligibility of veterans and their spouses for the program that helps veterans and their spouses obtain occupational licenses;
- D. Requiring each board, commission, office and agency within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation or affiliated with the department to permit a veteran or spouse who holds a comparable license in another state to acquire a license by endorsement in this State for the remainder of the term of the license from the other state or until a license is obtained in this State or obtain a temporary license in this State for the period of time necessary to obtain a license in this State;
- E. Requiring each board, commission, office and agency within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation or affiliated with the department to grant a full or partial exemption from continuing education requirements for a veteran or spouse;
- F. Obtaining information regarding the implementation of the process established to help qualified veterans and their spouses to obtain occupational licenses, including data concerning how many veterans and their spouses have received assistance;
- G. Extending renewal dates for occupational licenses for veterans and their spouses;
- H. Waiving fees for licensing veterans as emergency medical services persons and security guards;
- I. Extending the period of time allowed between the completion of military service and the favorable treatment of that military service for purposes of occupational licensing; and
- J. Allowing all veterans to purchase credit for time served in the military for purposes of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

2. The bill would help veterans access education by:

- A. Extending the amount of time given to veterans to transition from military service to school;
- B. Requiring each campus of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to have a dedicated space for veterans with at least one computer where veterans may meet and have the tools available to them that they need to access benefits;
- C. Providing loans to veterans for books that are required for classes;
- D. Providing services for veterans who receive other than an honorable discharge from military service;
- E. Providing easier readmittance to school for veterans who leave school for health-related issues; and
- F. Providing graduate school assistance to veterans.

3. The bill would help veterans access health care by:

- A. Continuing and improving the pilot program established in Resolve 2017, chapter 24 that provides mental health case management services to veterans;
- B. Providing mental health treatment in all counties for veterans;
- C. Waiving the fee for medical marijuana identification cards for veterans;
- D. Providing that the time limit for veterans who are otherwise eligible for assistance under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is twice the time limit that would otherwise apply to the veterans; and
- E. Supporting programs that provide transportation to medical appointments for veterans.

4. The bill would help veterans access housing by:

- A. Providing funding to seek long-term solutions to reduce barriers, such as criminal convictions, substance use, mental illness and physical disabilities, to veterans securing housing;
- B. Increasing the number of housing vouchers provided to homeless veterans;
- C. Providing funding to assist landlords to improve substandard apartments and give incentives to landlords to rent to veterans;
- D. Changing the "Salute ME" mortgage program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority to provide veterans with a greater discount on home mortgage rates;
- E. Changing the property tax exemption for certain veterans to apply to all veterans;



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33 Fuller Road, Augusta, Maine 04330

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- F. Surveying public land, unused public buildings and available private buildings, including closed mills, for opportunities to provide housing or temporary shelter for veterans;
- G. Providing preference to veterans in the Bridging Rental Assistance Program, which assists persons with mental illness to secure temporary housing; and
- H. Providing funding for organizations and facilities that provide housing for homeless veterans.

5. The bill would provide general support to veterans by:

- A. Raising the amount of pension income paid under an employee retirement plan that is exempt from the income tax;
- B. Extending the time for which a driver's license is valid for active duty military members; and
- C. Increasing the maximum amount of a grant of temporary assistance that may be provided to a veteran from the Veterans Temporary Assistance Fund from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

LD 2153 An Act To Establish an Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel

Sponsor: *Sen. Carpenter* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280076979>

Judiciary

Committee Status: OTP

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill establishes the Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel to review a select number of deaths caused by accidental drug overdoses and to recommend to state, county and local agencies methods of preventing deaths as the result of accidental drug overdoses including modification or enactment of laws, rules, policies and procedures.

LD 2163 An Act To Address Funding Needs Related to COVID-19

Sponsor: *Speaker Gideon* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280077117>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 618

This bill authorizes transfers from the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital to a COVID-19 response fund in order to address funding needs associated with COVID-19 through January 15, 2021.

LD 2167 An Act To Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Sponsor: *Pres. Jackson* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280077132>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status: PL 2019, CH 617

This law has 12 parts dealing with a broad range of issues including education, FAME and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Of most relevance to hospitals are three provisions:

- Part C also allows the Medical Direction and Practices Board of the MaineEMS system to use videoconferencing and other technologies to conduct its meetings and, until December 31, 2020, to delegate its duties to the statewide emergency medical services medical director and the statewide associate emergency medical services medical director.
- Part H allows the Governor to modify or suspend the requirements for professional or occupational licensing or registration by any agency, board or commission if strict compliance with such requirements would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in dealing with the state of emergency.
- Part K authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to require a designated health care facility to report specific information to the department, such as the health care facility's emergency management plan and, on a daily basis, the number of beds available within that facility.



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