

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/5/19

L.D. 1007  
(Filing No. H- 499)

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
129TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 749, L.D. 1007, Bill, "An Act To Expand and Enhance Maine's Behavioral Health Direct Care Workforce"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, To Change the Educational Requirements of Certain Behavioral Health Professionals'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to amend rules governing educational requirements for behavioral health professionals providing home and community-based treatment. Resolved:** That, no later than January 1, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rule Chapter 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 65 to change the educational requirements for behavioral health professionals providing services for children's home and community-based treatment to allow the following educational requirements:

- 1. A minimum of 60 higher education credit hours in a related field of social services, human services, health or education;
- 2. A minimum of 90 higher education credit hours in an unrelated field with the provider required to have a specific plan for supervision and training documented in the personnel file of the employee; or
- 3. A high school diploma or equivalent and a minimum of 3 years of direct experience working with children in a behavioral health children's services program with the provider required to have a specific plan for supervision and training documented in the personnel file of the employee.

The changes to educational requirements required by this resolve do not affect the requirements for behavioral health professional training and the prescribed time frames.

**Sec. 2. Training within existing resources. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend or establish contracts to train any additional

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 number of individuals engaging in training to become behavioral health professionals  
2 providing children's home and community-based treatment services within existing  
3 resources. The department may make any changes necessary, including choosing to  
4 charge individuals or their employers fees for training, in order to offer training within  
5 existing resources.'

6 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
7 section number to read consecutively.

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This amendment replaces the concept draft. It changes the educational requirements  
10 for behavioral health professionals providing children's home and community-based  
11 treatment to replace the requirement for a bachelor's degree to a minimum of 60 credit  
12 hours in a related field, 90 credit hours in an unrelated field combined with a plan for  
13 supervision and training or a high school diploma or equivalent with 3 years of  
14 experience working in the field combined with a plan for supervision and training. The  
15 educational requirements do not change the required behavioral health professional  
16 training or the prescribed time frames for that training. It also requires the Department of  
17 Health and Human Services to amend or establish contracts for training behavioral health  
18 professionals to train any additional individuals within existing resources, and authorizes  
19 the department to opt to charge individuals or their employers fees for training.

20 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

21 **(See attached)**



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1007

LR 2085(02)

## An Act To Expand and Enhance Maine's Behavioral Health Direct Care Workforce

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-499)

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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### Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - General Fund

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Changing the educational requirements to qualify to be a behavioral health professional (BHP) providing children's home and community-based treatment will lead to an increase in the number of BHPs and an increase in the amount of professional training required by BHPs. Currently, the training for BHPs is provided through a 3rd-party contract funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This bill allows the DHHS to amend or establish contracts to stay within existing resources while training a greater number of individuals. The DHHS may make any changes necessary, including choosing to charge fees from individuals or their employers, in order to offer the training within existing resources. As this bill provides no new funding, the impact of these new costs on other programs in the DHHS cannot be determined at this time.