

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1634

H.P. 1088

House of Representatives, April 15, 2025

An Act Regarding MaineCare Waiting Lists

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 11, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt", is positioned above the printed name of the Clerk.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative OSHER of Orono.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, MCCABE of Lewiston,
SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3197 is enacted to read:

§3197. Limitation on waiting time for services

Waiting time for any service available under the MaineCare program is governed by this section.

1. Six-month limitation on waiting time. The department shall require that for any service covered under the MaineCare program, the maximum amount of time a covered individual may be placed on a waiting list or otherwise wait for service is 6 months from the time the covered individual requests the service in the manner required under the MaineCare program or by the provider of the service.

2. Corrective action plan; report to Legislature. If at any time a waiting list maintained by a provider requires covered individuals to wait longer than 6 months for a service covered under the MaineCare program, the department shall, within 3 months of notice of this occurrence, issue a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters containing a corrective action plan to reduce waiting times in compliance with subsection 1.

For the purposes of this section, "covered individual" means an individual who is eligible for and enrolled in the MaineCare program.

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to require that for any service covered under the MaineCare program, an individual enrolled in the MaineCare program may not be required to wait for services longer than 6 months from the time the services are requested. If at any time a provider's waiting list exceeds the 6-month waiting limit for those individuals, the department must submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters a corrective action plan to reduce waiting times within 3 months from the time the department becomes aware of this occurrence.