

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1758

H.P. 1176

House of Representatives, April 22, 2025

### **An Act to Expedite Provider Enrollment in MaineCare**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth,  
JAVNER of Chester, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: BALDACCI  
of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington.

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

2               Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3173-L is enacted to read:

3       **§3173-L. Provider enrollment; expedited provisional approval**

4               The process for expedited provisional approval of provider enrollment in the  
5       MaineCare program is governed by the following provisions.

6               **1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,  
7       the following terms have the following meanings.

8               A. "National provider identifier" means a unique, 10-digit, intelligence-free,  
9       identification number issued by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
10      Services to a provider of medical or health services and any other person or  
11      organization that furnishes, bills or is paid for health care in the normal course of  
12      business. "Intelligence-free" means that the numbers do not carry other information  
13      about a healthcare provider such as the state in which the provider lives or operates or  
14      the provider's medical specialty.

15      B. "Provider" means an individual, a facility or an organization that provides services  
16      under the MaineCare program.

17              **2. Expedited provisional approval.** The department shall provisionally approve the  
18      enrollment application of a provider in good standing, as defined by rule pursuant to  
19      subsection 6, paragraph C, subparagraph (1), that has a national provider identifier within  
20      48 hours of receipt of a complete application if the provider is employed by a health care  
21      entity that has an enrollment application approval rate of greater than 90% in the previous  
22      5 years.

23              **3. Authority to review; final approval.** The department may conduct a complete  
24      review of an applicant granted expedited provisional approval pursuant to this section. For  
25      a provider that has received expedited provisional approval pursuant to subsection 2, the  
26      provider's enrollment is considered finally approved 60 days following the receipt of the  
27      provider's application for expedited provisional approval unless the department  
28      affirmatively revoked the provisional approval during the 60-day period.

29              **4. Approval suspended or revoked.** Nothing in this section may prevent the  
30      department from suspending or revoking the approval of an applicant that has been granted  
31      expedited provisional approval following complete review if a material deficiency is  
32      determined to exist. If the provider's approval is revoked, the provider is not eligible for  
33      expedited provisional approval under subsection 2 and must go through the regular  
34      enrollment process as provided by rule to regain enrollment.

35              **5. Approval revoked; reimbursements for payments during period of provisional**  
36      **approval.** The Office of MaineCare Services may seek reimbursement for any payments  
37      made by the MaineCare program for services provided by a provider if its expedited  
38      provisional approval was revoked in the 60-day expedited provisional approval period  
39      pursuant to subsection 3.

40              **6. Rulemaking.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules  
41      must, at a minimum:

A. Prescribe a method to determine the enrollment application approval rate of the provider's employer under subsection 2;

B. Develop a process for suspending an individual provider's expedited provisional approval status; and

C. Define the following:

(1) The elements of "good standing," under subsection 2; and

(2) "Material deficiency" under subsection 4.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

## SUMMARY

This bill establishes an expedited process for providers to enroll in the MaineCare program. Under the bill, the Department of Health and Human Services must provisionally approve the enrollment application of a provider in good standing that has a national provider identifier within 48 hours of receipt of a complete application if the provider is employed by a health care entity that has an enrollment application approval rate of greater than 90% in the previous 5 years. The department may conduct a complete review during a 60-day expedited provisional approval period, but the provider is considered approved after 60 days if the department does not affirmatively deny approval during that period. However, the bill does not prevent the department from suspending or revoking approval after the 60-day period if a material deficiency exists. If the provider's approval is revoked, the provider is not eligible for expedited reenrollment but must go through the regular enrollment process as established by rule. The Office of MaineCare Services may seek reimbursements for any payment made to a provider during the provisional period if the provider's provisional approval is revoked. The department must adopt rules to implement these provisions.