

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Filing No. S-346)

MAJORITY

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 755, L.D. 1937, "An Act to Require Hospitals and Hospital-affiliated Providers to Provide Financial Assistance Programs for Medical Care"

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 3 in paragraph E in the 7th line (page 4, line 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "30" and inserting the following: '45'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 5 by striking out all of paragraph B (page 5, lines 4 to 7 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'B. Providing, in conspicuous locations within the hospital, including admission, registration and waiting areas, information regarding how patients can access physical copies of the plain language summary under paragraph A, the financial assistance program application and any application instructions.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 8 in the 4th line (page 6, line 4 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "3%" and inserting the following: '4%'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 10 in the first line (page 6, line 11 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "shall" the following: ', by July 1, 2028.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Division of Licensing and Certification Z036

Initiative: Establishes one Comprehensive Health Planner II position, effective July 1, 2026, to develop program applications and implement the department's enforcement requirements for charity care and other financial assistance programs required of hospitals, including investigating patient complaints, taking corrective actions and providing staff support for any necessary legal action. The initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 755, L.D. 1937 (S-346)

1	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
2	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
3	Personal Services	\$0	\$37,721
4	All Other	\$0	\$2,467
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$40,188
7			
8	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
9	Personal Services	\$0	\$73,223
10	All Other	\$0	\$6,599
11			
12	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$79,822

13

14 **Sec. 8. Effective date.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.'

15 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section

16 number to read consecutively.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

19 1. It changes the requirement that a hospital determine a patient's eligibility for

20 financial assistance and inform the patient of the eligibility determination within 30 days

21 from the date a completed application is submitted to within 45 days from the date a

22 completed application is submitted.

23 2. It changes the requirement for hospitals to provide physical copies of the plain

24 language summary, the financial assistance program application and any application

25 instructions in conspicuous locations within the hospital, including admission, registration

26 and waiting areas, to a requirement that hospitals provide in these conspicuous locations

27 information as to how a patient can access physical copies of these documents.

28 3. It changes the requirement that a hospital offer a patient with a documented family

29 income that does not exceed 400% of the federal poverty level a payment plan that requires

30 monthly out-of-pocket payments that do not exceed 3% of the patient's monthly family

31 income that is not exempt from attachment or garnishment under state law to a requirement

32 that the offered payment plan not exceed 4% of that income.

33 4. It provides that the date by which a hospital is required to provide an online option

34 through which an applicant may file an application for charity care is July 1, 2028.

35 5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

36 6. It changes the effective date of the legislation from January 1, 2026 to July 1, 2026.

37 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

38 (See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 1937****LR 979(02)****An Act to Require Hospitals and Hospital-affiliated Providers to Provide Financial Assistance Programs for Medical Care****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-346)****Committee: Health and Human Services****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$40,188	\$41,580	\$42,935
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$40,188	\$41,580	\$42,935
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$79,822	\$82,587	\$85,278
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$14,513	\$15,016	\$15,505

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

This bill may increase the number of civil suits filed in the court system. The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional filing fees will increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$40,188 in fiscal year 2026-27 for one Comprehensive Health Planner II position to implement the requirements of the department for implementation and enforcement of charity care and other financial assistance programs provided by hospitals. Other Special Revenue Funds allocations are also included for fee revenue and federal matching funds.

Any additional costs to the Office of the Attorney General from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.