

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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STAFF:

SAMUEL SENFT, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ANNA BROOME, PRINCIPAL ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

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highest rating under the child care quality rating system under Department of Health and Human Services rules.

LD 1523 Resolve, to Develop MaineCare Coverage for Doula Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 89 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to initiate a rate determination process for developing rates for doula services under the MaineCare program. The department shall establish a doula council to provide advice on issues related to reimbursement, credentialing, recruitment, billing and outreach. The department shall submit a report, no later than February 1, 2027, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters that includes the department's progress on developing rates and recommendations for reimbursement of doula services under the MaineCare program. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 1550 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules to Protect Water Quality by Reducing Nutrient Pollution from Septic Systems

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 45 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule governing subsurface wastewater disposal in the following ways.

1. It must amend the design standards for disposal fields in a manner that addresses short circuiting by reducing nutrient loading from septic tank effluent through natural processes.
2. It must apply the amended design standards only to soil profiles that pose a high risk of short circuiting due to the presence of sand or gravel layers in lower soil horizons or bedrock fractures.
3. It must provide that an area of land suitable for the installation of a disposal field may not be rendered unsuitable due to any changes in the rule amended pursuant to the resolve.

LD 1736 An Act to Increase the Supply of Child Care Services Through the Use of Contracts

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 323 requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services to enter into direct contracts with providers of child care to provide child care slots for children under three years of age, children with disabilities and children in

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underserved geographic areas. It authorizes the office to use direct contracts to provide child care slots for other categories of children based on priorities identified by the office.

LD 1769 An Act to Ensure Data Reporting for Temporary Nurse Agencies

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 346 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters summarizing the annual reports submitted by temporary nurse agencies. It also adds language to the definition of “temporary nurse agency” to include online platforms or marketplaces that advertise for and assist or facilitate placement of temporary nurses, certified nursing assistants or other qualified staffing in an organization within the State. It requires temporary nurse agencies to use the Department of Health and Human Services, Background Check Center for direct access workers. It provides that the department may enter into a consent agreement with an applicant or registrant to resolve any matter arising under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 417, chapter 417-A or chapter 1691 or a rule adopted by the department without further proceedings.

LD 1866 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the State-designated Agency Advocating for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 349 requires that the Department of Health and Human Services contract with an independent agency to provide advocacy services on a statewide basis to individuals with serious mental illness who are residing in those individuals’ communities or who are hospitalized. It also prohibits advocates from providing medical advice.

LD 1937 An Act to Require Hospitals and Hospital-affiliated Providers to Provide Financial Assistance Programs for Medical Care

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 488 eliminates the existing law that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt guidelines governing charity care and replaces it with a more comprehensive law governing charity care and other financial assistance programs provided by hospitals to patients to cover charges for services provided by that hospital. The law does the following.

1. It requires that hospitals provide charity care or free health care services to patients who are state residents and whose family income is equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level.