

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**

August 2025

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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.

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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2. It establishes requirements with respect to hospital-provided financial assistance programs and specific requirements applying only to charity care that hospitals must follow in accordance with rules adopted by the department concerning the application process, language interpretation, eligibility determinations, notification of eligibility determinations and, in the case of charity care, rights to a hearing following a denial.
3. It requires that hospitals widely publicize their financial assistance programs within the community served by the hospital, including by publishing a summary of the programs written in plain language; by providing in conspicuous locations throughout the hospital information as to how patients may access physical copies of the summary, application and application instructions; and by posting a full, accessible and downloadable version of the application on the hospital's publicly accessible website.
4. It requires that a hospital provide individual written notice of the availability of charity care to each patient. For inpatient services, the notice must be provided upon admission, or in the case of emergency admission before discharge. For outpatient services, individual notice must be included with the patient's bill or at the time service is provided.
5. It requires that a hospital notify a patient who is determined to be eligible for financial assistance if any part of the services provided are not covered by the hospital's financial assistance program. A hospital that fails to provide this notice is prohibited from charging the patient for those services, but is permitted to charge the patient's health insurance carrier for those services.
6. It provides that a hospital must offer, for patients with family incomes that do not exceed 400% of the federal poverty level, a hospital must offer a payment plan that requires monthly out-of-pocket payments that do not exceed 4% of the patient's monthly family income that is not exempt from attachment or garnishment under Maine law.
7. It requires hospitals to include on a patient's bill information concerning the process for disputing charges.
8. It requires that hospitals provide an online option for applying for charity care by July 1, 2028.
9. It requires the department to enforce the provisions of this law. The department must establish a process to receive patient complaints for hospital noncompliance, conduct reviews of those complaints and require a corrective action when a hospital is found to be noncompliant.
10. It establishes a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for hospitals that knowingly or willfully violate the provisions of this law or engage in a pattern of noncompliance with these provisions.
11. It establishes an effective date of July 1, 2026 and requires the department to adopt rules by June 30, 2026 to carry out the purposes of this law.