# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## STATE OF MAINE

 $132^{\text{ND}}$  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

LD 1946 An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of Certified Recovery Residences for Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Vouchers

### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 427 provides that individuals residing in certified recovery residences may apply for Bridging Rental Assistance Program housing vouchers, but may not use those vouchers to subsidize the costs of residing at a recovery residence. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services, in adopting rules, to ensure that individuals being released from institutions, individuals being released from incarceration and homeless individuals have priority over individuals residing in recovery residences in the award of program housing vouchers.

LD 1961 An Act to Clarify the Laws Relating to the Licensure of Certain Facilities by the Department of Health and Human Services

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 305 amends several provisions related to the licensing and regulation of various medical and social service entities by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Part A of the law amends provisions related to the issuance of conditional licenses to applicants seeking licensure for a personal care agency; a facility for children and adults under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1663; the provision of mental health services; and an agency that provides services to adults with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, a related condition or an acquired brain injury. It also amends the law governing licensure for the provision of mental health services to require the department to monitor for compliance every two years, rather than once a year, regardless of the license term. Part A updates terms related to the licensing of health care facilities under Title 22, chapter 405; expands the definition of "facility" under Title 22, Subtitle 6, which concerns facilities for children and adults; clarifies the definition of "independent housing with services program" under the laws governing assisted housing facilities; and removes the requirement that the department must approve any employee assistance program for substance use.

Part B of the law amends the law governing health care facility reporting of sentinel events by clarifying which health care facilities are required to comply with sentinel event reporting requirements; expanding the types of events that must be reported as sentinel events; removing the requirement to report a so-called near miss where a sentinel event almost occurred; and making other changes and clarifications with respect to the reporting and review process.

Part C of the law amends the provisions of law governing the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants and Direct Care Workers to resolve conflicts created by the concurrent passage of Public Law 2023, chapter 241 and Public Law 2023, chapter 309.