

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1617

S.P. 655

In Senate, March 1, 2016

An Act Regarding the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program

Reported by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin for the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Order 2016, S.P. 639.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5107-A**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 596, Pt. B, §9 and
3 affected by §25, is further amended by adding after the 2nd paragraph a new paragraph to
4 read:

5 In addition, the ombudsman may act as a resource during the hospital discharge
6 process to assist patients with complex medical needs who experience significant barriers
7 to admission in a residential care facility, as defined in section 7852, subsection 14,
8 licensed according to section 7801; nursing facility licensed according to section 1817; or
9 assisted living facility or program licensed pursuant to chapter 1663 or 1664 and provide
10 assistance to facilities subsequent to the placement of patients with complex medical
11 needs.

12 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
13 allocations are made.

14 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

15 **Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office 0140**

16 Initiative: Provides funds to contract for 2 additional positions in the long-term care
17 ombudsman program to assist patients with complex medical needs with overcoming
18 barriers to admission in a residential care facility, nursing facility or assisted living
19 facility or program and provide services to facilities subsequent to placement of patients
20 with complex medical needs.

21			
22	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
23	All Other	\$0	\$150,000
24			
25	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$150,000

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill, which is a recommendation of the Commission To Study Difficult-to-place
28 Patients, amends the law governing the long-term care ombudsman program to clarify
29 that the long-term care ombudsman has the authority to act as a resource during the
30 hospital discharge process to assist patients with complex medical needs who experience
31 significant barriers to admission in a residential care facility, nursing facility or assisted
32 living facility or program. It also provides funds to allow the program to contract for 2
33 new full-time positions within the program.