

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1993

H.P. 1276

House of Representatives, May 23, 2023

**An Act to Expand Home Visiting Services and Provide for
Reimbursement Under the MaineCare Program for Perinatal Doula
Services and Midwifery Services**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §262**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 683, Pt. B, §2, is amended to
3 read:

4 **§262. Home visiting**

5 **1. Voluntary universal home visiting program.** The department, ~~as permitted by~~
6 ~~the availability of funds,~~ shall offer a voluntary universal home visiting program for new
7 families with children from the prenatal stage of development through 5 years of age,
8 regardless of family income level. The home visiting program must incorporate the
9 following principles:

- 10 A. Healthy and strong parent-child attachment;
- 11 B. Physical and behavioral health of the family;
- 12 C. Reduced incidence of child abuse and neglect;
- 13 D. Positive and creative learning environments for the child;
- 14 E. Effective and positive parenting;
- 15 F. Parental competencies and self-confidence;
- 16 G. Reducing family isolation through community linkages;
- 17 H. School readiness; and
- 18 I. Family self-sufficiency.

19 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-KKK** is enacted to read:

20 **§3174-KKK. Reimbursement for home visiting services**

21 The department shall provide for the reimbursement under the MaineCare program for
22 home visiting services under section 262 for MaineCare members. The department shall
23 adopt rules to implement this section. In adopting rules under this section, the department
24 shall consult with and consider the expertise of home visiting experts related to the rate of
25 reimbursement. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined
26 in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The department shall reevaluate reimbursement
27 rates adopted pursuant to this section every 2 years.

28 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3174-LLL** is enacted to read:

29 **§3174-LLL. Reimbursement for perinatal doula services**

30 The department shall provide for the reimbursement under the MaineCare program for
31 perinatal doula services. Perinatal doula services must be provided within an existing
32 program provided by the department, such as the voluntary universal home visiting
33 program under section 262. For the purposes of this section, "perinatal doula services"
34 means regular physical, emotional or educational support to pregnant MaineCare members
35 before, during and after childbirth for up to 12 months by a trained provider. The
36 department shall adopt rules to implement this section. In adopting rules under this section,
37 the department shall consult with and consider the expertise of doula experts, doula training
38 providers and practicing doulas related to the rate of reimbursement. Rules adopted
39 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375.

1 subchapter 2-A. The department shall reevaluate reimbursement rates adopted pursuant to
2 this section every 2 years.

3 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3174-MMM** is enacted to read:

4 **§3174-MMM. Reimbursement for services provided by certified professional**
5 **midwives**

6 The department shall provide for the reimbursement under the MaineCare program for
7 services provided by a certified professional midwife. Services provided by certified
8 professional midwives may be provided within the voluntary universal home visiting
9 program under section 262. For the purposes of this section, "certified professional
10 midwife" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 12501, subsection 4-B. The
11 department shall adopt rules to implement this section. In adopting rules under this section,
12 the department shall consult with and consider the expertise of certified professional
13 midwives related to the rate of reimbursement. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are
14 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The department
15 shall reevaluate reimbursement rates adopted pursuant to this section every 2 years.

16 **Sec. 5. Federal Medicaid waivers or state plan amendments.** No later than 6
17 months after the effective date of this Act, the Department of Health and Human Services
18 shall submit to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for
19 Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or state plan amendments determined
20 necessary in order to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to:

- 23 1. Offer a voluntary universal home visiting program for new families with children;
24 and
- 25 2. Provide for reimbursement under the MaineCare program for:
- 26 A. Home visiting services;
27 B. Perinatal doula services; and
28 C. Services provided by certified professional midwives.