

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1932

Date: 3/30/26

(Filing No. H-936)

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1293, L.D. 1932, "An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 to 4.

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 6 to 10 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 6. Maine Health Data Organization and Department of Health and Human Services to develop care gap plan.** The Maine Health Data Organization, referred to in this section as "the organization," and the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this section as "the department," shall develop a plan to measure the State's care gap. For the purposes of this section, "care gap" means the difference between the home and community-based services individuals are authorized to receive and the services that they actually received. The organization and the department shall do the following:

1. Work with the department's appropriate vendors to create a supplemental file to report on the care gap for services provided under the sections of MaineCare policy provided under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 40, 65, 92 and 96. This file must include the authorization data elements needed for the organization to link this data with the claims and eligibility data that the vendor currently submits to the organization on behalf of the Office of MaineCare Services within the department. The organization must have access to the authorization, claims and eligibility data necessary to calculate the care gap. Using the existing data governance framework, the organization shall securely integrate multiple data streams, manage and store the data and develop dashboards to display key data points over time;

2. Work with the department's appropriate vendors to create a uniform reporting system for submitting key data elements to report on the care gap for services provided under the department's Office of Aging and Disability Services, Part 1 rule Chapter 5, Office of Aging and Disability Services Policy Manual, Sections 61, 63, 68 and 69. These data elements that may need modification to allow for data collection include, but are not limited

1 to, the medical eligibility determination form, authorized care plan, invoiced payment data  
 2 and utilization reports; and

3 3. Determine if there is any data available to estimate the care gap for services provided  
 4 under the sections of MaineCare policy provided under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare  
 5 Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 23 and 26 and those services provided under Section  
 6 65 that do not require prior authorization. If data is available, the organization and the  
 7 department shall estimate the care gap.

8 Following the modifications to contracts required in subsections 1 and 2, the  
 9 organization shall integrate multiple data streams, manage and store the data and develop  
 10 dashboards to display key data points over time. The organization may integrate any  
 11 available data for those MaineCare services that do not require prior authorization  
 12 described in subsection 3. The organization shall submit an annual report to the joint  
 13 standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services  
 14 matters and over appropriations and financial affairs no later than November 15th of each  
 15 year beginning in 2027. This report must contain data on the care gap with a breakdown  
 16 by MaineCare Benefits Manual sections and Office of Aging and Disability Services Policy  
 17 Manual sections, including any changes in trends. The first report in 2027 must include  
 18 information on progress toward developing the care gap analysis, including any options for  
 19 MaineCare services without prior authorization. The joint standing committee of the  
 20 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to  
 21 report out legislation in response to the first report in 2027. As part of any proposed  
 22 legislation, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health  
 23 and human services matters must consider the inclusion of the care gap data and the full  
 24 cost of providing the services identified in the care gap in one of the existing statutorily  
 25 required reports submitted by the department to the joint standing committee of the  
 26 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

27 **Sec. 7. Cost-of-living adjustment for essential support workers; MaineCare**  
 28 **rates.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Health  
 29 and Human Services shall submit a request to seek approval from the United States  
 30 Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
 31 to implement a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.07% for reimbursement rates subject to rule  
 32 Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 13, 65 and 92 and rule  
 33 Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Sections 2, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21,  
 34 26, 29, 40, 67, 96 and 97 Appendix C effective January 1, 2027. The department shall  
 35 submit the request required to seek approval under this section to implement the cost-of-  
 36 living adjustment as soon as practicable.

37 **Sec. 8. Cost-of-living adjustment for state-funded home and community-**  
 38 **based services.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall increase  
 39 reimbursement for state-funded home and community-based services by implementing a  
 40 cost-of-living increase of 3.07% for direct care services provided under the department's  
 41 Office of Aging and Disability Services, Part 1 rule Chapter 5, Office of Aging and  
 42 Disability Services Policy Manual, Sections 61, 63, 68 and 69 effective January 1, 2027 to  
 43 maintain parity with similar MaineCare programs.

44 **Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 45 allocations are made.

1 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**  
 2 **Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare Z211**

3 Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement  
 4 a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections  
 5 and state-funded home and community-based services.

6	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
7	All Other	\$0	\$3,601,826
8			
9	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,601,826</u>

10 **Developmental Services Waiver - Supports Z212**

11 Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement  
 12 a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections  
 13 and state-funded home and community-based services.

14	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
15	All Other	\$0	\$295,468
16			
17	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$295,468</u>

18 **Long Term Care - Office of Aging and Disability Services 0420**

19 Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement  
 20 a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections  
 21 and state-funded home and community-based services.

22	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
23	All Other	\$0	\$253,130
24			
25	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$253,130</u>

26 **Medicaid Services - Developmental Services Z210**

27 Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement  
 28 a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections  
 29 and state-funded home and community-based services.

30	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
31	All Other	\$0	\$270,572
32			
33	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$270,572</u>

34 **Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147**

35 Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement  
 36 a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections  
 37 and state-funded home and community-based services.

38	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
39	All Other	\$0	\$2,954,257
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41	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,954,257</u>

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<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$11,488,930
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$11,488,930</u>
<b>FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$75,046
<b>FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$75,046</u>
<b>Nursing Facilities 0148</b>		
Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.		
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$2,099,642
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,099,642</u>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$3,843,337
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,843,337</u>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$379,339
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$379,339</u>
<b>Office of MaineCare Services 0129</b>		
Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.		
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$42,194
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$42,194</u>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$130,538
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$130,538</u>

1	<b>PNMI Room and Board Z009</b>		
2	Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement		
3	a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections		
4	and state-funded home and community-based services.		
5	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
6	All Other	\$0	\$534,775
7			
8	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
9		\$0	\$534,775
10	<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,</b>		
11	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
12	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
13			
14	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$0	\$10,051,864
15	<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	\$0	\$15,462,805
16	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	\$0	\$379,339
17	<b>FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND</b>	\$0	\$75,046
18			
19	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
20		\$0	\$25,969,054
21	<b>HEALTH DATA ORGANIZATION, MAINE</b>		
22	<b>Maine Health Data Organization 0848</b>		
23	Initiative: Provides one-time funding to the Maine Health Data Organization for data		
24	collection and initial implementation of a reporting dashboard to calculate the care gap for		
25	Office of Aging and Disability Services services.		
26	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
27	All Other	\$0	\$133,768
28	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
29		\$0	\$133,768
30	<b>HEALTH DATA ORGANIZATION, MAINE</b>		
31	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
32			
33	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	\$0	\$133,768
34			
35	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
36		\$0	\$133,768
37	<b>SECTION TOTALS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
38			
39	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$0	\$10,051,864
40	<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	\$0	\$15,462,805
41	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	\$0	\$513,107
42	<b>FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND</b>	\$0	\$75,046
43		<hr/>	<hr/>

1 SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS \$0 \$26,102,822

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3 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
4 number to read consecutively.

5

**SUMMARY**

6 This amendment removes all sections of the bill except for the section that adds 2  
7 members to the Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee.

8 The amendment applies a one-time cost-of-living adjustment of 3.07% for direct care  
9 services provided under certain sections of the MaineCare Benefits Manual and state-  
10 funded home and community-based services. The adjustment is applied beginning January  
11 1, 2027.

12 The amendment replaces the requirement for the Maine Health Data Organization to  
13 develop a methodology to develop a care gap report with a requirement for the Maine  
14 Health Data Organization and the department to work with the department's vendors to  
15 allow for the Maine Health Data Organization to develop a plan to measure the care gap in  
16 essential support worker services paid by the MaineCare program or a similar state-funded  
17 program. "Care gap" is defined as the difference between the services individuals are  
18 authorized to receive and the services that they actually received. This follows the  
19 recommendations from the report submitted pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 113. The  
20 amendment also requires the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction  
21 over health and human services matters to determine which existing reports required by  
22 statute that are submitted by the department to the committee could be amended to include  
23 the ongoing care gap funding requirements.

24

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

25

(See attached)



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1932

LR 1742(02)

## An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-936)

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$10,051,864	\$20,159,786	\$20,159,786
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$10,051,864	\$20,159,786	\$20,159,786
Federal Expenditures Fund	\$0	\$15,462,805	\$30,632,605	\$30,632,605
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$513,107	\$786,808	\$786,808
Federal Block Grant Fund	\$0	\$75,046	\$149,840	\$149,840
<b>Revenue</b>				
Federal Expenditures Fund	\$0	\$15,462,805	\$30,632,605	\$30,632,605
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$379,339	\$758,678	\$758,678
Federal Block Grant Fund	\$0	\$75,046	\$149,840	\$149,840

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$10,051,864 in fiscal year 2026-27 for a cost-of-living adjustment for several sections within MaineCare policy. A Federal Expenditures Fund allocation is also included in this bill for the FMAP match and an Other Special Revenue Fund allocation for the Nursing Facility Tax.

An Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$133,768 is also provided to the Maine Health Data Organization for data collection and implementation of a reporting dashboard to calculate the care gap for OADS services.