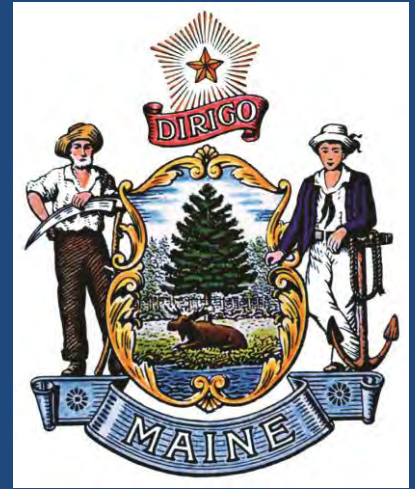


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2017

DHHS Report on LD 1214

An Act to Create Fairness in Home-Based Care Fees for Service



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Richard Hamilton, Commissioner

Report: LD 1214, first Regular Session 128th Maine State Legislature An Act to Create Fairness in Home-Based Care Fees for Service

Background and Purpose

The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee voted during the 128th First Regular Session to carry over LD 1214 - An Act to Create Fairness in Home-Based Care Fees for Service. During the First Regular Session, the bill's sponsor expressed that the intention of the bill is to prohibit a co-payment from being charged to a person who is eligible for Section 63 – State Funded Home Based Care (HBC) services and who is only receiving care coordination services and emergency response system (ERS) because a home care agency is unable to provide direct in-home support services due to a shortage of available workers. The HHS Committee requested that the Department of Health and Human Services complete an analysis of the scope of the issue and the fiscal impact of the issue and report the findings to the Committee in January 2018.

Analysis

Annually, the State Funded HBC program under 10-149 C.M.R ch.5, § 63 serves approximately 996 unduplicated consumers. Of this 996 served, an average of 40 consumers are unable to receive direct in-home services due to a shortage of available workers. Of the 996 consumers served, 26 unduplicated consumers are only receiving emergency response services (which requires a copayment) and care coordination; 7 of the 26 consumers are eligible to receive a waiver of copayment based on monthly income and assets.

Under 10-149 C.M.R ch.5, § 63, a consumer may apply for a waiver of all or part of the assessed payment when monthly income of household members is no more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and household assets are no more than \$15,000. Copayments are calculated using methodology outlined in under 10-149 C.M.R ch.5, § 63.11. Copayments collected by the Services Coordination Agency contribute to fund services for eligible consumers. The total monthly amount of copayment waived for these consumers equals \$307, or \$3,684 annually. This information is outlined in the below Data Table. Ultimately, the scope of the issue addressed by LD 1214 is quite limited. The fiscal impact would have to be borne by the Services Coordination Agency.

Data

	# Consumers	Number of Consumers Eligible for Monthly Co-Payment Waiver	# of Fully Unstaffed Consumers	Monthly Service Cost	Total Value of Monthly Waived Co-Payment	Total Annual Cost of Co-Payment Waived
Average Number of Unduplicated HBC Consumers Per Month	996	n/a	40	-	-	-
Number of Active HBC Consumers with Authorized ERS	617	n/a	40	617*\$47.52= \$29,319.84 ERS Cost only Annual Cost: \$351,838 (\$47.52 ERS Max. Monthly Rate)	n/a	n/a
Total Number of unduplicated consumers only receiving Care Coordination	108	18	0	108\$151.59= \$16,371.72 Annual Cost: \$196,460.64 (\$151.59 Care Coordination Monthly Cost)	\$1,169	\$14,028
Total Number of unduplicated consumers ONLY receiving ERS and Care Coordination	26	7	0	\$5,177.86 Annual Cost: \$62,134.32	\$307	\$3,684

Data as of 5/1/2017. Data Source MeCare and data from Maine's Service Coordination Agencies (2)

*Copayment not collected when consumer is only receiving care coordination services.