

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

July 2022

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report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by November 2, 2022 and authorizes the committee to introduce legislation based on that report during the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1747 An Act to Require Screening for Cytomegalovirus in Certain Newborn Infants

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 698 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a cytomegalovirus screening program for newborn infants. It provides that the department may not require that a newborn infant be tested for the presence of cytomegalovirus if the parents of that infant object on the grounds that a test conflicts with their religious tenets and practices. It requires testing providers to report aggregate results to the department. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information to people who may become pregnant on the risks of cytomegalovirus. It directs the department to adopt routine technical rules to implement the requirements of the law and to report on its progress to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by February 1, 2023. It provides that no later than three years after the final adoption of rules, the Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group of clinicians and researchers with knowledge of cytomegalovirus screening to review the cytomegalovirus screening program and to consider changes to the program. No later than February 1, 2026, the department shall provide an update on this review process to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

LD 1748 An Act Regarding the So-called Leveraging Investments so Families Can Thrive Report Produced by the Department of Health and Human Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 648 makes the following changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or TANF, and the Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or ASPIRE-TANF:

1. It requires the addition of qualitative survey data from participants in the TANF and ASPIRE-TANF programs, in the report that is submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3109. It changes the report from an annual report to a biennial report beginning January 15, 2023.
2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate and trauma-informed services to TANF and ASPIRE-TANF recipients. It requires the rule-making process to implement these services to include consultation with current and former TANF and ASPIRE-TANF participants.

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3. It requires the department to assist ASPIRE-TANF participants seeking to matriculate in postsecondary education through the Parents as Scholars Program with access to remedial services, financial assistance and the provision of ASPIRE-TANF services. Services must include reimbursement for tuition, fees and transcript costs. Hours spent preparing for matriculation are considered hours of participation in ASPIRE-TANF.
4. It creates parity between the Parents as Scholars Program and the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program by making services and benefits equivalent between the programs and by requiring, for both programs, that study hours be counted for three hours for every one hour of classroom instruction and options for half-time study be made available.
5. It provides that a referral from the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, Jobs for Maine's Graduates, adult education programs and Department of Labor career centers must be considered an application for the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program as long as the referral is submitted by a qualified person and on a form provided for this purpose and signed by the student.
6. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to explore the feasibility of simplifying the application process for education programs, including ASPIRE-TANF, the Parents as Scholars Program, the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program and the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program, to a single application.

LD 1758 An Act Regarding Access to Telehealth Behavioral Health Services during Public Health Emergencies

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 637 provides that the Department of Health and Human Services may not require a licensed mental health facility or licensed substance use disorder treatment facility to obtain written informed consent from a client during a federal or state public health emergency. The licensed facility may instead obtain a client's consent verbally, electronically or in writing. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to, no later than January 1, 2023, amend its rules to meet the requirements of the law.