

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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public access for all stages of rate review, ensuring access to a funding source for associated rate adjustments, establishing an expert technical advisory panel to assist the department on MaineCare rates and payment models, and adding the MaineCare Advisory Committee as an additional advisory body on the rate-setting system.

LD 1868 An Act To Restore Funding to the State's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

ENACTED LAW

Public Law 2021, chapter 748 provides ongoing allocations to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program to achieve a level of funding provided for the program that meets the funding level recommended for this State by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pursuant to its determination for state tobacco control programs, as long as the available funds in the Fund for a Healthy Maine allow that level of funding.

Public Law 2021, chapter 748 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2022.

LD 1909 An Act To Amend Syringe Service Programs

ENACTED LAW

Public Law 2021, chapter 545 removes the prohibition on the Maine Center for Disease Control limiting the number of hypodermic apparatuses provided by certified hypodermic apparatus exchange programs to exchange program participants.

LD 1960 An Act To Make Changes to the Laws Governing the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 550 makes the following changes to the laws governing the child welfare services ombudsman program.

1. It provides that the director of the ombudsman program must serve full time and expands the director's required experience to include child welfare.
2. It provides that the staffing for the ombudsman program is at the discretion of the nonprofit organization under contract to provide ombudsman services.
3. It provides that the contract to provide ombudsman services is for a period of five years, except that the contract may be terminated consistent with the terms of the contract.

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4. It provides that the contract to provide ombudsman services must include funds for the nonprofit organization to provide health insurance benefits for employees of the ombudsman program.
5. It provides that the ombudsman program must provide information about its services through a publicly accessible website and makes a technical correction regarding plural language.
6. It clarifies that the ombudsman program may provide opinions and recommendations on current or proposed state programs, rules, policies and laws.
7. It clarifies that the ombudsman program may provide input on the State's child welfare system to the Department of Health and Human Services and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.
8. It clarifies that the ombudsman program provides services to persons and families involved with the State's child welfare system.
9. It adds the child welfare ombudsman or the ombudsman's designee as a member of the child death and serious injury review panel established by the Department of Health and Human Services and requires that the panel, beginning January 1, 2023 and every two years thereafter, submit a report on the panel's recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

Additional funding for the child welfare ombudsman program was included in Public Law 2021, chapter 635 (supplemental budget).

LD 1968 An Act To Ensure Appropriate Placement of Defendants with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 757 requires an appropriate placement in an institution for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness within 30 days from the time the court transmits an order to the State Forensic Service committing a defendant to the custody of the Commissioner of Health and Human Services unless an extraordinary circumstance causes a necessary delay. The commissioner is required to notify the court of the extraordinary circumstance causing a delay.