

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE,
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

June 2024

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STATE OF MAINE

131ST LEGISLATURE
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature's webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY.....enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE.....emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW.....sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X.....ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX.....chapter # of enacted public law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature is Friday, August 9, 2024. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

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makes clear that the bureau is not authorized to act as a legal representative of a provider or to provide assistance with contract negotiations or interpretations of the terms of contracts between providers and carriers in any manner through the liaison program or complaint process.

LD 1533 An Act to Provide for Consistent Billing Practices by Health Care Providers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 521 requires that health insurance claims for facility services that are submitted by health care providers for payment or reimbursement must identify the physical location where services are rendered.

LD 1740 An Act to Protect a Patient's Access to Affordable Health Care with Timely Access to Health Care Prices

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 584 requires health care entities to provide a good faith estimate of the cost of medical services to be rendered directly by that health care entity during a single medical encounter upon request from an uninsured or self-pay patient. The law requires that the good faith estimate be provided within the following time frames.

1. When a medical encounter is scheduled at least three business days before the date the medical encounter is scheduled to be furnished or when a patient is seeking urgent care, the estimate must be provided no later than one business day after the date of scheduling or the date of the request.
2. When a medical encounter is scheduled at least 10 business days before the encounter is scheduled to be furnished, the estimate must be provided no later than three business days after the date of scheduling.
3. In all other circumstances, the estimate must be provided no later than three business days after the date of the request.

The law requires the health care entity to separately disclose the prices for each component of medical services, including any facility fees or fees for professional services, and the procedure codes for those services. It requires health care entities to post notice on prominent display of a patient's right to request this information and include the notice in a patient's written consent to treatment form that must be signed prior to receiving health care treatment or services.

Public Law 2023, chapter 584 requires that, upon a request from an insured patient, health care entities must provide a description of the medical services to be rendered during a single medical encounter and the applicable standard medical codes or current procedural terminology codes used by the American Medical Association for those services and notify the patient that the information

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can be used to obtain an estimate of the patient's out-of-pocket costs from the patient's health insurance carrier. It also requires health insurance carriers to respond to requests from a patient for an estimate of out-of-pocket costs based on the description of the medical services and the codes provided by the patient's health care entity.

The law prohibits a health care entity from initiating or pursuing any collection action against an uninsured or self-pay patient for items or services provided on a date the health care entity has provided those items or services to a patient unless the health care entity provided a good faith estimate to a patient that requested an estimate. The prohibition on collection actions does not extend to insured patients.

Public Law 2023, chapter 584 also requires that hospitals comply with the price transparency requirements established in 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 180, Subparts A and B as in effect on January 1, 2024. It requires a hospital to provide price transparency data in a standardized format as established by rule by the Maine Health Data Organization and provides that a hospital that fails to comply with the price transparency requirements established by the Maine Health Data Organization may be subject to a fine for noncompliance.

LD 1832 An Act to Continue the Study of Community Paramedicine and to Make Changes Related to Health Insurance Coverage and Prior Authorization Requirements for Certain Ambulance Service Providers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 591 makes changes to the laws related to health insurance coverage for ambulance services.

1. It clarifies the reimbursement rate to be paid by health insurance carriers to out-of-network ambulance service providers for covered emergency services.
2. It prohibits health insurance carriers from requiring an air ambulance service provider to obtain prior authorization before transporting an enrollee to a hospital or between hospitals for urgent care.

Public Law 2023, chapter 591 also authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters to report out, after further study, legislation to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 related to reimbursement by health insurance carriers for health care services provided by community paramedicine personnel.

LD 1921 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding State-chartered Credit Unions

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 539 amends the laws governing credit unions.