MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS

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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

August 2025

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LD 768 An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Licensing of Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 237 updates the provision of law governing the licensing of intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, or ICF/IIDs, to establish specific licensing requirements in statute. It codifies existing Department of Health and Human Services rules governing the licensing of ICF/IIDs and updates these licensing standards to align with similar licensing laws. It also amends the provision of law governing the reporting of sentinel events at health care facilities by removing ICF/IIDs from the list of health care facilities that are required to make reports to the department under this provision.

LD 769 An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 276 amends the law governing access to behavioral health supports for adults with an intellectual disability or autism by replacing a complex multiparty review process with a clinical review requirement. It removes the authority to use restraints on adults except as an emergency short-term step to protect the adult from imminent injury to that adult or others. Blocking and redirection are not considered restraints. The law clarifies the distinctions between positive behavioral health support plans, modifying behavioral health support plans and the use of safety devices and the processes for reviewing and approving each plan and use. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reconvene the interested parties group on adult behavioral regulations that was convened in 2024 prior to rulemaking in order to solicit advice on rules to implement the provisions in the law. The statutory changes are effective April 1, 2026. Plans that are approved prior to April 1, 2026 that include planned restraints to continue the use of those restraints for one year if considered necessary and approved by the department.

Public Law 2025, chapter 276 also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a children's behavioral health supports study to study best practices and consider removing planned restraints for children. The study must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than December 1, 2026, and the committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the study.

LD 800 An Act to Fund the Provision of Advocacy Services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 465 provides ongoing funding of $50,000 each year to Disability Rights Maine to provide advocacy services to persons with intellectual disabilities.