

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

May 2026

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5. It requires the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, no later than December 3, 2025, with data and policy efforts related to children's behavioral health services.

Public Law 2025, chapter 522 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 522 became law without the Governor's signature, and as an emergency measure, effective January 11, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 522 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to change the dates for the two required reports from December 3, 2025 to January 15, 2027.

LD 1746 An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children

Public Law 2025, chapter 723 makes the following changes to the laws governing programming related to children's oral health.

1. It delays the requirement for oral health services to be available in all schools from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2027 and clarifies that the requirement applies only to public schools.
2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop public-private partnerships to establish a model to provide for mobile dental services providers to provide additional preventive oral health and disease intervention services in schools based on the model in the Cumberland County School Oral Health Project. It requires the department to provide for at least one mobile dental services provider in each public health district per school year.
3. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide training and education by licensed dental health professionals to primary care providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment for infants and small children using guidance from the From the First Tooth program or its successor program and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Pediatricians are encouraged to use silver diamine fluoride in primary care settings to reduce dental disease and prevent cavities.
4. It makes permanent two previously-established, limited-period positions related to the provision of oral health services in public schools within the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

LD 1772 An Act to Establish the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund

Public Law 2025, chapter 641 establishes the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund as a subaccount of the Fund for a Healthy Maine. It requires the State Controller to credit to the stabilization fund all nonparticipating manufacturer adjustments disputed for 2026 and 2027, 10%

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of nonparticipating manufacturer adjustments disputed for 2028 and thereafter and a proportionate share of interest or other investment income on balances in the Fund for a Healthy Maine. It provides that funds must be used to eliminate the need for the working capital advance before April 30, 2028. It requires that, if the need for a working capital advance is not eliminated before April 30, 2028, any funds in the stabilization fund remaining in subsequent years must be used to reduce reliance on those sources until all settlement payments can be allocated to the fiscal year following the year the settlement payments are received. Any remaining funds may be used for research and planning activities to supplement and connect current efforts among state agencies and stakeholders and for health promotion purposes allowable within the Fund for a Healthy Maine. If the stabilization fund is eliminated or dissolved for any reason, the State Controller must transfer the balance of funds back to the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

Public Law 2025, chapter 641 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 6, 2026.

LD 1893 An Act to Establish the Independent Office of the Child Advocate

Public Law 2025, chapter 724 eliminates the child welfare services ombudsman program and replaces it with the Office of the Child Advocate, beginning October 1, 2026. The Office of the Child Advocate is housed within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for administrative purposes only.

The Child Advocate is appointed for a five-year term that may be renewed. The Child Advocate must have a professional graduate degree in law, health care, public health, social work or a related field. The Child Advocate must also have knowledge of safety science and juvenile correctional practices or be willing to undergo training. The Child Advocate is subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and to confirmation by the Legislature.

The Office of the Child Advocate is established to provide independent oversight of state agencies and promote the best interests of children and ensure that children receive timely, safe and effective services in accordance with state and federal law. The office is required to review complaints and determine if it is necessary to investigate the actions of a state agency and make recommendations to address concerns, identify whether the issue is systemic and make recommendations on specific complaints. The office may complete case-specific reviews on the receipt of complaints or on the office's own initiative. The office may complete systems-wide or periodic review of policies, programs, rules, procedures or services offered to children and offer recommendations to address systemic concerns. The office is also required to provide information and referral assistance to families and the public and assist them in navigating and accessing services, provided that such information and assistance does not constitute legal representation. The office is also required to perform educational outreach and advocacy.

The Office of the Child Advocate is authorized to access to files and records from the Department of Health and Human Services and to the premises of the department. The office may also visit facilities and residential programs serving children. The office has access to juvenile information held by the Department of Corrections except for juvenile intelligence and investigative record