

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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LD 2108 An Act to Establish the Suicide Mortality Review Panel

Public Law 2025, chapter 586 establishes the Suicide Mortality Review Panel, a multidisciplinary panel established to review the trends in deaths by suicide of all residents of the State. The panel is charged with reviewing records of cases of confirmed or suspected deaths by suicide and deaths recorded as undetermined in which suicide cannot be ruled out to identify strengths and weaknesses of the system of care and to recommend to the Commissioner of Health and Human Services ways to decrease the rate of deaths by suicide and improve the system for preventing death by suicide, including modifications to law, rules, training, policies and procedures. The panel is required to submit a report by January 2nd of each year to the Governor, the commissioner and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

Public Law 2025, chapter 586 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 23, 2026.

LD 2123 Resolve, to Improve Dental Care Access by Modifying the MaineCare Reimbursement Methodology for the Provision of Certain Dental Services

Resolve 2025, chapter 164 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to make the following changes to its reimbursement for certain dental services provided to MaineCare members, which must be effective July 1, 2026.

1. It prohibits the department from requiring prior authorization for the provision of deep sedation or general anesthesia for dental services.
2. It establishes the reimbursement rate for deep sedation and general anesthesia for dental services at 67% of the commercial median benchmark, to be maintained until June 30, 2028, or until rates established pursuant to a dental rate determination conducted according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3173-J are effective, whichever is sooner. It also requires the department to maintain temporary reimbursement rates for tooth extractions and dental caries arresting medicament applications until June 30, 2028 or until rates established pursuant to a dental rate determination conducted according to Title 22, section 3173-J are effective, whichever is sooner.

LD 2131 Resolve, Regarding the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund

Resolve 2025, chapter 157 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, to require that the guardrails that are used in the three-year transition to new reimbursement rates be adjusted for inflation. The law also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a stakeholder group to examine issues related to the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund. The stakeholder group must submit a report, no later than January 15, 2027, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having

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jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report.

Resolve 2025, chapter 157 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 13, 2026.

LD 2134 An Act to Create an Exception to the Prohibition of Tobacco Sales in Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies for Certain Small Grocery Stores

Public Law 2025, chapter 580 creates an exception to the provision of law that prohibits a retail establishment that contains a pharmacy from obtaining a retail tobacco license. A grocery store containing a pharmacy remains eligible for a retail tobacco license if the store has no more than 26,000 square feet of customer-accessible sales area; the pharmacy was established in the grocery store at that location prior to July 7, 2025 and is independently licensed and operates in a separately leased space; all tobacco sales are made from the grocery store's independent inventory and point-of-sale system; and the grocery store complies with all other requirements under the provisions governing retail tobacco licenses. The law also removes references to the sale of tobacco through vending machines or the practice of giving away tobacco products in the course of trade, both of which were made illegal by Public Law 2025, chapter 367.

Public Law 2025, chapter 580 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 19, 2026.

LD 2136 An Act to Support Victims of Trafficking in Maine in Response to Federal Funding Cuts

Public Law 2025, chapter 701 provides one-time funding to support the Preble Street anti-trafficking services program to replace delayed federal funding.

LD 2144 Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries

Resolve 2025, chapter 147 creates the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries, which is directed to review existing health and wellness resources available to individuals in Maine's heritage industries; consider the specific challenges for individuals with serious brain disorders and traumatic brain injuries working in heritage industries; identify gaps in the provision of services and barriers to accessing existing resources; identify issues facing migrant workers; examine successful models from other states and jurisdictions; develop recommendations for establishing sustainable funding mechanisms and service delivery models; and explore opportunities for public education to reduce stigma around mental health issues and increase awareness of mental health services. The resolve requires the working group to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters, marine resources matters and health and human services matters by December 1, 2026