

First Regular Session--129th Maine Legislature

Maine Hospital Association Legislative Report

1/4/2019

LD 1 An Act To Protect Health Care Coverage for Maine Families

Sponsor: *President Jackso* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070605>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that consumer protections related to health insurance coverage included in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are codified in state law.

In Part A, the bill does the following.

1. It makes clear that individual and group health plans may not impose any preexisting condition exclusion on an enrollee. The bill does permit a carrier to restrict enrollment in individual health plans to open enrollment and special enrollment periods established in rule.
2. It clarifies that carriers offering individual or group health plans may not establish lifetime or annual limits on the dollar value of benefits. The bill specifies that the provision prohibiting annual limits on the dollar value of benefits applies to the dollar value of essential health benefits as determined by the Superintendent of Insurance.
3. It allows children, until they attain 26 years of age, to remain on their parents' health insurance policy.
4. It changes the maximum rate differential due to age that may be filed by the carrier to the rate differential that is permitted (3 to 1) under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
5. It also deletes the provision in Maine law that permits

In Part B, the bill requires that, at a minimum, health plans cover essential health benefits that are substantially similar to those benefits required for health plans subject to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as of January 1, 2019. The bill directs the Superintendent of Insurance to define essential health benefits in rule and designates those rules as major substantive and subject to legislative review and approval.

LD 3 An Act To Enhance and Increase the Availability of Mental Health Providers in Maine

Sponsor: *Rep. Hardy* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070613>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill establishes and provides funding for the Maine Mental Health Providers Loan Repayment Program to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. Under the program, all social workers licensed by the State Board of Social Worker Licensure and all counselors licensed by the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure may apply for student loan repayment assistance, as long as the applicants agree to practice for 5 years in one of a list of underserved practice areas in the State, including in a hospital. The bill also repeals the currently unfunded Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program in the Maine Revised Statutes.

LD 20 An Act To Provide Coverage for Abortion Services for MaineCare Members

Sponsor: *Rep. Reckitt* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070623>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide coverage to a MaineCare member for legal abortion services. The bill provides that abortion services that are not approved Medicaid services must be funded by the State. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules no later than March 1, 2020.



LD 21 An Act To Prohibit the Use of Electroconvulsive Therapy for Certain Populations

Sponsor: *Rep. Reckitt* <http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070625>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill prohibits the use of electroconvulsive therapy on a child under 18 years of age or a person over 65 years of age or a person who is pregnant.

LD 29 Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To Address the Opioid Crisis in the State by Establishing a Work Group To Develop Educational Programming for Prevention of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders among Youth and Adolescents

Sponsor: *Rep. McCreight* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070665>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This resolve is based on recommendations of the Task Force To Address the Opioid Crisis in the State, which submitted its report to the Legislature in December 2017. The resolve requires the Department of Education to establish a work group to evaluate existing substance use prevention programs targeting school-age children, investigate prevention programs that have proven effective in other areas of the United States or in other countries, identify funding resources and determine how prevention programs should be incorporated into education curricula. The work group must include representatives of educational, law enforcement and public health organizations. The department is required to submit a report of the findings of the work group no later than January 1, 2020 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.

LD 30 An Act To Improve Health Care Data Analysis

Sponsor: *Rep. Perry* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070666>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to improve the State's capacity to use data regarding health care costs and health care systems. The State's ability to better analyze and use data regarding health care utilization and health care quality will serve to inform the State's health care policy. This concept draft is the result of the work of the Task Force on Health Care Coverage for All that worked over the past two years looking at various health care reform ideas. (MHA and hospitals were represented on the Task Force). The Task Force members who supported this concept were not able to fully articulate how the data should be used or by whom. As a result, the bill is now only a concept draft.

LD 37 An Act To Allow for the Sale of Nonprescription Drugs through Vending Machines

Sponsor: *Rep. Terry* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070657>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This bill creates a limited exception to the prohibition against the sale of drugs by vending machines to allow for the sale of nonprescription drugs by vending machines.



LD 40 Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study Children's Mental Health

Sponsor: *Rep. Madigan* <http://www.legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280070660>

Committee Status:

Public Hearing:

Final Status:

This resolve establishes the Commission To Study Children's Mental Health to study the mental health of children in the State and federal and state laws, regulations, rules and policies governing the diagnosis and treatment of children with mental health issues.



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