

STATE OF MAINE  
132<sup>ND</sup> 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

**MEMBERS:**

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# *Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

## **SUBJECT INDEX**

### **Adult Protective Services**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2021	An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults	PUBLIC 541
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### **Aging and Long-term Care**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2131	Resolve, Regarding the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund	RESOLVE 157
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<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 182	An Act to Provide Per Diem Payments for MaineCare Residents of the Maine Veterans' Homes	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 814	An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults	Died On Adjournment
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### **Behavioral Health**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 721	Resolve, to Support the Full Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in the State	RESOLVE 170
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	LD 1216	An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services	PUBLIC 610
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	LD 1989	An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund	PUBLIC 576
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	LD 2108	An Act to Establish the Suicide Mortality Review Panel	PUBLIC 586
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<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 604	An Act to Ensure Access to Concurrent Methadone Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Programs	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 1416	An Act to Establish a Commission to Study the Placement of Individuals Committed by a Court to the Custody of the Department of Health and Human Services and to Update a Cross-reference Regarding Such Placement	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 1425	An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 1443	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers	Died On Adjournment
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LD 1843	An Act to Provide Peer Respite for Individuals with Mental Health Care Needs	Died On Adjournment
LD 2065	An Act to Provide One-time Funds to Support the Construction of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for At-risk Youth	ONTP

### *Child Care*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1728	An Act to Improve Affordability, Stability and Access in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program	PUBLIC 587
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 561	An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements for Certain Child Care Providers	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1414	Resolve, to Improve the Availability of Child Care by Increasing Certain Reimbursements Under the Maine Child Care Affordability Program and Establishing a Grant Program to Facilitate Off-hours Care	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1859	An Act to Improve Access to Child Care and Early Childhood Education by Establishing Regional Resource Hubs	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1955	An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability	Died On Adjournment
	LD 2066	An Act to Establish the Child Care Employment Award	Died On Adjournment

### *Child Welfare*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1893	An Act to Establish an Independent Office of the Child Advocate	PUBLIC 724
	LD 2001	An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Facilities for Children and Adults Under the Health and Human Services Laws	PUBLIC 594
	LD 2105	An Act to Update Maine's Mandated Reporting Laws	PUBLIC 667
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 52	Resolve, Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to Study Options for Allowing Children in the Department's Custody to Receive Federal Benefits	Died On Adjournment
	LD 766	An Act to Protect the Children of Maine	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
	LD 1060	An Act to Provide Funding to Reduce Stigma for Parents Seeking Support	Died On Adjournment

LD 1061	An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine	Died On Adjournment
LD 1261	Resolve, to Establish the Community Navigator Pilot Program to Support At-risk Families	Died On Adjournment
LD 1922	An Act to Support Workforce Development for Families That Were Involved in Child Protective Activities by Requiring the Sealing of Certain Records	ONTTP

### **Children's Behavioral Health**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1426	Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment	RESOLVE 119
	LD 1745	An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine	PUBLIC 522
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 2125	An Act to Sustain Access to Children's Residential Care Services	Died On Adjournment

### **Children's Services**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1540	Resolve, Directing the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council to Examine the Unmet Needs of Children Who Need Skilled Medical Care	RESOLVE 128
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### **Dental**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1746	An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children	PUBLIC 723
	LD 2123	Resolve, to Improve Dental Care Access by Modifying the MaineCare Reimbursement Methodology for the Provision of Certain Dental Services	RESOLVE 164

### **Departmental Organization and Administration**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1677	An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program	PUBLIC 507
	LD 1893	An Act to Establish an Independent Office of the Child Advocate	PUBLIC 724
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 555	An Act to Create a Separate Department of Child and Family Services	Died On Adjournment

LD 943	An Act to Require the ASPIRE-TANF Program to Be Administered by State Employees	ONTP
LD 1443	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers	Died On Adjournment

### *Developmental Disabilities*

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 2117	Resolve, Regarding the Process of Filling Vacancies in Certain Group Homes for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder	Died On Adjournment
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### *Disposition of Human Remains*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 562	An Act to Update Reimbursement Rates for Transportation of Deceased Persons by Funeral Homes When the Transport is at the Request of the Chief Medical Examiner	PUBLIC 742
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 540	An Act to Identify the State's Unidentified Human Remains	Died On Adjournment

### *Emergency Medical Services*

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 35	An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services	ONTP
	LD 2119	Resolve, to Review Reimbursement for Certain Emergency Medical Services	Died On Adjournment

### *Fund for a Healthy Maine*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1772	An Act to Establish the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund	PUBLIC 641
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1658	An Act to Preserve and Strengthen the Fund for a Healthy Maine	Died On Adjournment

### *Health Care*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1583	An Act Regarding Home Health Care Services Ordered by a Physician Licensed Outside of Maine	PUBLIC 567
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### **Health Care Workforce**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2083	An Act to Expand Access to Certified Residential Medication Aide Training	PUBLIC 574
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1311	An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1720	Resolve, Regarding Certified Nursing Assistant Examinations	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1932	An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development	Died On Adjournment

### **Health Information and Data**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2154	An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange	PUBLIC 732
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1932	An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development	Died On Adjournment

### **Hospice and Palliative Care**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1583	An Act Regarding Home Health Care Services Ordered by a Physician Licensed Outside of Maine	PUBLIC 567
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### **Hospitals**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2103	An Act Requiring Hospitals to Adopt Cybersecurity Plans	PUBLIC 668
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 331	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports	Died On Adjournment
	LD 2196	An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care	Died On Adjournment

### **Licensing**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1583	An Act Regarding Home Health Care Services Ordered by a Physician Licensed Outside of Maine	PUBLIC 567
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	LD 2001	An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Facilities for Children and Adults Under the Health and Human Services Laws	PUBLIC 594
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1737	An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage	ONTP

**Medicaid/MaineCare**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2123	Resolve, to Improve Dental Care Access by Modifying the MaineCare Reimbursement Methodology for the Provision of Certain Dental Services	RESOLVE 164
	LD 2131	Resolve, Regarding the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund	RESOLVE 157
	LD 2177	An Act to Update and Improve the MaineCare Reimbursement System	PUBLIC 664
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 35	An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services	ONTP
	LD 169	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery	Died On Adjournment
	LD 182	An Act to Provide Per Diem Payments for MaineCare Residents of the Maine Veterans' Homes	Died On Adjournment
	LD 331	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports	Died On Adjournment
	LD 335	An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights	Died On Adjournment
	LD 604	An Act to Ensure Access to Concurrent Methadone Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Programs	Died On Adjournment
	LD 896	An Act to Provide Young Children Stable Access to Health Care	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1835	An Act to Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation	ONTP
	LD 2117	Resolve, Regarding the Process of Filling Vacancies in Certain Group Homes for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder	Died On Adjournment
	LD 2125	An Act to Sustain Access to Children's Residential Care Services	Died On Adjournment

### *Mental Health*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2144	Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries	RESOLVE 147
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### *PFAS*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 493	An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Wells	PUBLIC 746
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<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 500	An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing	Died On Adjournment
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### *Prescription Monitoring Program*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1277	An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities	PUBLIC 760
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### *Public Assistance*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 840	An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives	PUBLIC 753
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	LD 2051	An Act to Ensure Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maine	PUBLIC 647
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<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 834	An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 943	An Act to Require the ASPIRE-TANF Program to Be Administered by State Employees	ONTP
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	LD 978	An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 1017	An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement	Died On Adjournment
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	LD 1959	An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Reducing General Assistance Reimbursement Maximums for Payment of Costs of Providing Emergency Shelter	ONTP
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	LD 1996	An Act to Clarify Responsibilities of the State in the Laws Governing General Assistance	Died On Adjournment
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### *Health and Human Services*

LD 2122 An Act to Prevent Negative Impacts from Federal Funding Changes to and Fund Eligibility Determinations and Outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Died On Adjournment

### **Public Health**

**Enacted** LD 1677 An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program PUBLIC 507

LD 1738 An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State PUBLIC 509

**Not Enacted** LD 875 An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence Died On Adjournment

### **Reproductive Healthcare**

**Not Enacted** LD 335 An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights Died On Adjournment

LD 1418 An Act to Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care, Including Fertility Treatments and Contraceptives ONTP

### **Sexual Assault Services and Trafficking**

**Enacted** LD 2136 An Act to Support Victims of Trafficking in Maine in Response to Federal Funding Cuts PUBLIC 701

### **Substance Use Disorder**

**Enacted** LD 1738 An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State PUBLIC 509

**Not Enacted** LD 604 An Act to Ensure Access to Concurrent Methadone Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Programs Died On Adjournment

### **Tobacco Sale and Use**

**Enacted** 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 580

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
HHS	35	An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services	Curry, Chip	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
HHS	52	Resolve, Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to Study Options for Allowing Children in the Department's Custody to Receive Federal Benefits	Roeder, Amy	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	169	Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery	Hasenfus, Tavis	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	182	An Act to Provide Per Diem Payments for MaineCare Residents of the Maine Veterans' Homes	Supica, Laura	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	331	Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports	Drinkwater, Gary	ONTP/OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	335	An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights	Kuhn, Amy	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	493	An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Wells	Osher, Laurie	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	746	
HHS	500	An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing	Pluecker, Bill	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	540	An Act to Identify the State's Unidentified Human Remains	Boyer, Jr., David	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	555	An Act to Create a Separate Department of Child and Family Services	Timberlake, Jeff	ONTP/OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	561	An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements for Certain Child Care Providers	Baldacci, Joseph	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	562	An Act to Update Reimbursement Rates for Transportation of Deceased Persons by Funeral Homes When the Transport is at the Request of the Chief Medical Examiner	Baldacci, Joseph	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	742	
HHS	604	An Act to Ensure Access to Concurrent Methadone Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Programs	Supica, Laura	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	721	Resolve, to Support the Full Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in the State	Graham, Anne	OTP-AM	Finally Passed	Resolve	170	

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
HHS	766	An Act to Protect the Children of Maine	Meyer, Michele	LTW	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
HHS	814	An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults	Cloutier, Kristen	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	834	An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	840	An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	753	
HHS	875	An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence	Meyer, Michele	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	896	An Act to Provide Young Children Stable Access to Health Care	Carney, Anne	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	943	An Act to Require the ASPIRE-TANF Program to Be Administered by State Employees	Archer, Marshall	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
HHS	978	An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes	Zager, Sam	OTP-AM/OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1017	An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement	Talbot Ross, Rachel	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1060	An Act to Provide Funding to Reduce Stigma for Parents Seeking Support	Meyer, Michele	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1061	An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine	Meyer, Michele	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1216	An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services	Nangle, Tim	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	610	
HHS	1261	Resolve, to Establish the Community Navigator Pilot Program to Support At-risk Families	Brennan, Michael	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1277	An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities	Moonen, Matt	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	760	

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
HHS	1311	An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1414	Resolve, to Improve the Availability of Child Care by Increasing Certain Reimbursements Under the Maine Child Care Affordability Program and Establishing a Grant Program to Facilitate Off-hours Care	Daughtry, Matthea	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1416	An Act to Establish a Commission to Study the Placement of Individuals Committed by a Court to the Custody of the Department of Health and Human Services and to Update a Cross-reference Regarding Such Placement	Talbot Ross, Rachel	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1418	An Act to Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care, Including Fertility Treatments and Contraceptives	Nangle, Tim	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
HHS	1425	An Act to Improve Access to Sustainable and Low-barrier Trauma Recovery Services	Rotundo, Margaret	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1426	Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment	Gramlich, Lori	OTP-AM	Emergency Finally Passed	Resolve	119	
HHS	1443	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers	Bennett, Richard	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1540	Resolve, Directing the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council to Examine the Unmet Needs of Children Who Need Skilled Medical Care	Baldacci, Joseph	OTP-AM	Finally Passed	Resolve	128	
HHS	1583	An Act Regarding Home Health Care Services Ordered by a Physician Licensed Outside of Maine	Cloutier, Kristen	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	567	
HHS	1658	An Act to Preserve and Strengthen the Fund for a Healthy Maine	Graham, Anne	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1677	An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program	Shagoury, Daniel	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	507	
HHS	1720	Resolve, Regarding Certified Nursing Assistant Examinations	Talbot Ross, Rachel	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1728	An Act to Improve Affordability, Stability and Access in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	587	

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
HHS	1737	An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage	Stewart, Trey	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
HHS	1738	An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State	Rana, Ambureen	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	509	
HHS	1745	An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine	Gramlich, Lori	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	522	
HHS	1746	An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children	Gramlich, Lori	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	723	
HHS	1772	An Act to Establish the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund	Bennett, Richard	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	641	
HHS	1835	An Act to Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation	Bennett, Richard	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
HHS	1843	An Act to Provide Peer Respite for Individuals with Mental Health Care Needs	Roeder, Amy	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1859	An Act to Improve Access to Child Care and Early Childhood Education by Establishing Regional Resource Hubs	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	1893	An Act to Establish an Independent Office of the Child Advocate	Gramlich, Lori	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	724	
HHS	1922	An Act to Support Workforce Development for Families That Were Involved in Child Protective Activities by Requiring the Sealing of Certain Records	Meyer, Michele	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
HHS	1932	An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development	Fecteau, Ryan	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	1955	An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability	Daughtry, Matthea	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			√
HHS	1959	An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Reducing General Assistance Reimbursement Maximums for Payment of Costs of Providing Emergency Shelter	Talbot Ross, Rachel	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			√

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
HHS	1989	An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund	Moore, Marianne	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	576	
HHS	1996	An Act to Clarify Responsibilities of the State in the Laws Governing General Assistance	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	2001	An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Facilities for Children and Adults Under the Health and Human Services Laws	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	594	
HHS	2021	An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults	Meyer, Michele	OTP	Enacted	PL	541	
HHS	2051	An Act to Ensure Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maine	Pluecker, Bill	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	647	
HHS	2065	An Act to Provide One-time Funds to Support the Construction of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for At-risk Youth	Ingwersen, Henry	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			√
HHS	2066	An Act to Establish the Child Care Employment Award	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM/OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	2083	An Act to Expand Access to Certified Residential Medication Aide Training	Meyer, Michele	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	574	
HHS	2103	An Act Requiring Hospitals to Adopt Cybersecurity Plans	McCabe, Julie	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	668	
HHS	2105	An Act to Update Maine's Mandated Reporting Laws	Meyer, Michele	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	667	
HHS	2108	An Act to Establish the Suicide Mortality Review Panel	Stover, Holly	OTP	Emergency Enacted	PL	586	
HHS	2117	Resolve, Regarding the Process of Filling Vacancies in Certain Group Homes for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder	Sachs, Melanie	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	2119	Resolve, to Review Reimbursement for Certain Emergency Medical Services	DeBrito, Flavia	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	2122	An Act to Prevent Negative Impacts from Federal Funding Changes to and Fund Eligibility Determinations and Outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Fecteau, Ryan	OTP-AM/ONTP	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	2123	Resolve, to Improve Dental Care Access by Modifying the MaineCare Reimbursement Methodology for the Provision of Certain Dental Services	Fecteau, Ryan	OTP-AM	Finally Passed	Resolve	164	

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**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
HHS	2125	An Act to Sustain Access to Children's Residential Care Services	McCabe, Julie	OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			
HHS	2131	Resolve, Regarding the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund	Grohoski, Nicole	OTP-AM	Emergency Finally Passed	Resolve	157	
HHS	2134	An Act to Create an Exception to the Prohibition of Tobacco Sales in Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies for Certain Small Grocery Stores	Curry, Chip	OTP-AM	Emergency Enacted	PL	580	
HHS	2136	An Act to Support Victims of Trafficking in Maine in Response to Federal Funding Cuts	Nangle, Tim	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	701	
HHS	2144	Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM	Finally Passed	Resolve	147	
HHS	2154	An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange	Gattine, Drew	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	732	
HHS	2177	An Act to Update and Improve the MaineCare Reimbursement System	Gattine, Drew	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	664	
HHS	2196	An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care	Gattine, Drew	OTP-AM/OTP-AM	Died On Adjournment			

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**LD 493 An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Wells**

Public Law 2025, chapter 746 requires landlords of residential buildings supplied by private wells to test their well water for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. It also requires sellers of residential properties that are supplied by private wells to disclose any water tests indicating the presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The law also adds perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to the list of contaminants included in the Department of Health and Human Services uniform testing recommendations for private drinking water wells.

**LD 562 An Act to Update Reimbursement Rates for Transportation of Deceased Persons by Funeral Homes When the Transport is at the Request of the Chief Medical Examiner**

Public Law 2025, chapter 742 increases the transportation reimbursement rate for funeral establishments requested to transport a body for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. It also establishes a reimbursement rate for employees required to wait during the course of transporting a body.

**LD 721 Resolve, to Support the Full Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in the State**

Resolve 2025, chapter 170 provides one-time funding to support the full implementation of the five certified community behavioral health clinics certified by the State as part of the federal certified community behavioral health clinic Medicaid demonstration program. The law requires the Department of Health and Human Services to use the provided funds to support certified behavioral health centers in a manner that enables the department to access the designated enhanced federal match for the program.

**LD 840 An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives**

Public Law 2025, chapter 753 amends the 1974 State Supplemental Income Act in the following ways.

1. It replaces provisions of law that provided that payments to couples, both of whom receive the supplement, are 150% of the benefit for an individual with provisions of law providing that payments to the couples are 200% of the benefit for an individual.
2. It requires that the standard used to determine need is the current annual budget at the lower level of living for an individual as most recently determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or a budget consistent with such a budget taking into account budget variances by living arrangements permitted pursuant to Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act.

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3. It establishes that, in determining any increase according to the United States Consumer Price Index, consideration must be given to the goal of reaching, within a reasonable time, a benefit level equal to or consistent with the current budget at the lower level of living for an individual, rather than a retired couple, established by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine.

**LD 1216 An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services**

Public Law 2025, chapter 610 repeals a section of law that requires crisis intervention services in four counties and replaces it with a requirement for crisis intervention support services to be made available by the Department of Health and Human Services in all 16 counties in the State. The law requires that a community-based telephone crisis intervention hotline be provided by crisis intervention support services. The hotline must coordinate with the national 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline.

**LD 1277 An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities**

Public Law 2025, chapter 760 removes anabolic steroids from the definition of “controlled substance” in the laws governing controlled substances prescription monitoring and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to purge from the records of the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program all information concerning the prescribing and dispensing of anabolic steroids. The law also provides funding for database maintenance to implement this exception of anabolic steroids from the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program.

**LD 1426 Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment**

Resolve 2025, chapter 119 requires that, by March 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services issue a request for applications for a pilot program to develop child assertive community treatment team services in the Lewiston or Bangor geographic area. The request for applications must require the awardees of the grants to use workforce incentives designed to attract, train and retain child assertive community treatment team staff. The department is required to engage in a competitive process to determine the awardees. The term of the contract may not exceed two years. The law provides one-time funding for the child assertive community treatment team. Within 90 days following the conclusion of the pilot program, the department must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters describing the outcomes and recommendations for continuation of the pilot programs.

Resolve 2025, chapter 119 was finally passed 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, Resolve 2025, chapter 119 became law without the Governor’s signature, and as an emergency measure, effective January 11, 2026.

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Resolve 2025, chapter 119 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to change the date for the request for applications from March 1, 2026 to March 1, 2027.

### **LD 1540 Resolve, Directing the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council to Examine the Unmet Needs of Children Who Need Skilled Medical Care**

Resolve 2025, chapter 128 requires the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council to convene a work group to examine the unmet needs of children who require skilled medical care and the families of those children. The council must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 31, 2026. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Resolve 2025, chapter 128 was finally passed 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, Resolve 2025, chapter 128 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

Resolve 2025, chapter 128 was subsequently amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 757 to change the reporting date to January 31, 2027 and to authorize the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters to report out legislation in the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

### **LD 1583 An Act Regarding Home Health Care Services Ordered by a Physician Licensed Outside of Maine**

Public Law 2025, chapter 567 allows a home health care provider to deliver home health care to a patient who resides in this State based on an order from a physician in another state. It requires the home health care provider to be certified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in addition to being licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services. The physician issuing the order must be licensed in another state, prescribe services pursuant to an in-person physical exam in the jurisdiction where the physician is licensed and may order services for no more than 90 days. The physician licensed in another state may provide telehealth services only to the patient for whom the order has been issued and is exempt from licensure by the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine or the Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure for this limited purpose.

### **LD 1677 An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program**

Public Law 2025, chapter 507 establishes the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program, which the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention must administer in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services. The program's objectives

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include educating the public, supporting efforts for early detection and diagnosis, reducing cognitive decline and other negative outcomes and supporting care planning and management.

The law also creates the Healthy Brain Initiative Council as an advisory board composed of various stakeholders including, but not limited to, families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, medical professionals and medical facilities that treat individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, research and advocacy organizations and employees of the Office of Aging and Disability Services. The council is responsible for studying and developing findings and recommendations on a series of topics including, but not limited to, the occurrence of Alzheimer's disease or related dementias in this State, the treatment and care available and policies that address public awareness, prevention and early detection, treatment and care, safety concerns, legal concerns, research and assistance to families.

By January 20, 2027, the council must submit to the Governor and the Legislature a five-year plan outlining its recommendations to address the concerns the council is tasked with studying. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention is required to issue annual updates on the progress of the plan's implementation and the council is required to issue an updated plan every five years.

Public Law 2025, chapter 507 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 507 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

**LD 1728 An Act to Improve Affordability, Stability and Access in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program**

Public Law 2025, chapter 587 makes the following changes to the Maine Child Care Affordability Program.

1. It establishes a cap on copayments for families receiving subsidies under the program. A family with income up to 85% of the median family income in the State may not be required to pay more than 7% of the family's household income. The Department of Health and Human Services may further reduce or waive copayments for additional populations, including families with income up to 30% of the median family income in the State, children in foster care or kinship care, families experiencing homelessness and families with a child with a disability. Copayment information must be posted on the department's publicly accessible website.
2. It requires the department to reimburse child care providers for subsidies based on enrollment rather than attendance. Payment practices must promote the financial stability of child care providers and continuity of care for children.
3. It allows the department to reimburse child care providers receiving a subsidy at a rate that is higher than the amount charged for a child in a family that is not receiving a subsidy.

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**LD 1738 An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State**

Public Law 2025, chapter 509 establishes the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program within the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The purpose of the program is to disseminate grant funds to community organizations seeking to develop or enhance community hypodermic apparatus mitigation and disposal efforts. The center is required to establish grant guidelines and selection requirements and to submit an annual report to the Legislature.

The law also requires a municipality that receives opioid settlement funds to contribute matching funds from its opioid settlement allocation and to provide documentation attesting to those matching funds.

Public Law 2025, chapter 509 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 509 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

**LD 1745 An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine**

Public Law 2025, chapter 522 adds the following requirements to the laws governing children's residential care services.

1. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters whenever a children's residential care facility closes. The notification, which must be made within two weeks of closure, must include the name of the facility, the services provided, the number of beds and employees and the reasons for closure.
2. It adds requirements to the annual report on children's behavioral health services from the Department of Health and Human Services related to children in hospital emergency departments after they are cleared for discharge, out-of-state residential services and the cost of those services, lengths of stays in residential treatment facilities and denials of services.
3. It requires the department to convene a stakeholder group to identify the short-term and long-term staffing and resources needs to ensure the sustainability of child residential treatment providers. The report is due to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than December 3, 2025.
4. It requires the department to engage in outreach to providers of children's residential services, inpatient psychiatric services and community-based services to counsel those providers on resource needs to prevent closures and encourage the reopening of beds.

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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

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information and personnel records. The office may enter the premises of the department as long as the entry does not create a safety and security concern. Information obtained, held or created by the office is confidential and may be disclosed only under certain circumstances.

The law also creates the Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate, an 11-member committee with members who serve three-year terms, except for legislative members whose terms are coterminous with their term in office. The duties of the advisory committee include: recommending at least three qualified candidates for the Child Advocate position to the Governor as well as determining whether to recommend reappointment of the Child Advocate; evaluating the Child Advocate's performance; recommending cost-of-living or salary increases for the Child Advocate and requesting the Governor to include any salary increase in the next budget; advising on the strategic direction of the office; working collaboratively with the Child Advocate to provide fiscal oversight and compliance with federal and state laws; and providing consultation to the office in its efforts to promote an effective, comprehensive and coordinated system of services and programs. Appointments to the advisory committee must be completed by March 15, 2027.

The Child Advocate is required to report annually to the Governor, the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and juvenile justice matters and the Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters has oversight over the operations of the office and may make recommendations to the Governor and report out legislation related to the annual report.

The law transfers the funding and the positions from the current ombudsman contract to the Office of the Child Advocate as of October 1, 2026. The appointment of the first Child Advocate must be made by July 15, 2027. The new Child Advocate may hire staff as necessary, which may include staff that were transferred. Beginning April 1, 2027, funding is available for two additional staff, one of which is professional child advocate staff and one of which is administrative staff. The law also provides an additional \$100,000 in one-time funding for staffing, office expenses, training and contractual services. The Governor is required to appoint an interim Child Advocate by October 1, 2026, giving preference to the current ombudsman. The interim Child Advocate is required to prepare an in-depth report of resource needs, including staffing, equipment, travel and consultancies, to implement the new office. This report must be submitted by February 15, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to that report to make any necessary adjustments to the office.

### **LD 1989 An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund**

Public Law 2025, chapter 576 changes eligibility for reimbursement from the Progressive Treatment Program Fund by replacing the term "private entities" with a list of individuals eligible to receive reimbursements, including the superintendent or chief administrative officer of a private psychiatric hospital, the director of an ACT team, a private medical practitioner, a law enforcement officer or the legal guardian of the patient who is the subject of an application to a progressive treatment program. It also allows reimbursement for legal costs incurred to extend an existing

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progressive treatment program. It adds language stating that a private attorney representing an individual eligible to receive funds may also be reimbursed. It changes the cap for reimbursement from the fund from \$800 to an annual cap of \$3,500. It adds language stating that reimbursement is subject to available funds.

Public Law 2025, chapter 576 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 19, 2026.

### **LD 2001 An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Facilities for Children and Adults Under the Health and Human Services Laws**

Public Law 2025, chapter 594 updates the laws governing the licensing and investigation of facilities for children and adults by clarifying the requirements regarding confidential abuse and neglect investigation records, requiring the Department of Health and Human Services, instead of the State Fire Marshal or other public safety inspectors, to inspect specialized children's homes and removing requirements for interagency licensing of children's homes between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education and for licensing of nursery schools. The law also corrects outdated references to "residential child care facilities" with the current term, "children's residential care facilities."

### **LD 2021 An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults**

Public Law 2025, chapter 541 adds the option of reporting the abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults to the Department of Health and Human Services using an online portal. This change aligns state law with federal regulations promulgated in June 2024 that require states to allow at least two methods of reporting, one of which must be online.

### **LD 2051 An Act to Ensure Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maine**

Public Law 2025, chapter 647 repeals language describing eligibility for the state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It adds language clarifying current eligibility and establishing eligibility for the program for individuals who became ineligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program under Public Law 119-21 (2025), commonly known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

### **LD 2083 An Act to Expand Access to Certified Residential Medication Aide Training**

Public Law 2025, chapter 574 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a certificate to an individual who has successfully completed a department-approved certified residential medication aide course that meets the medication administration training requirements for unlicensed assistive personnel in accordance with rules established by the department for

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certain facilities. The law also requires the department to review the course curriculum at least every five years and allows the department to establish by rule certification fees and sanction fees for certified residential medication aides and instructors.

**LD 2103 An Act Requiring Hospitals to Adopt Cybersecurity Plans**

Public Law 2025, chapter 668 requires hospitals, beginning January 1, 2027, to adopt a cybersecurity plan that is consistent with best practices established by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; the United States Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and the Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council or its successor organization. It establishes requirements regarding testing and revising such plans, training of employees, post incident review, auditing and confidentiality.

**LD 2105 An Act to Update Maine’s Mandated Reporting Laws**

Public Law 2025, chapter 667 makes the following changes to the mandated reporter law.

1. It replaces the list of mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1071, with a list that consolidates categories of mandated reporters and removes some categories from the list.
2. It removes the penalty for violations of the mandated reporter law and clarifies that the authority of an appropriate licensing board of a mandated reporter is not limited in taking action for a violation of the mandated reporter statutory requirements.
3. It requires a report of abuse or neglect to be made immediately but within no more than 24 hours.
4. It requires training for mandated reporters every two years instead of every four years.
5. It retains the current statutory structure of mandated reporters in institutions, agencies or facilities to use the designated agent system, although the person with first-hand information about suspected child abuse or neglect must make the report whenever possible. The institution, agency or facility may establish internal procedures to facilitate reporting. The person required to report may seek consultation to determine if a report is required.
6. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services, rather than the mandated reporter, to report to the appropriate district attorney’s office when the abuse or neglect is caused by a person not responsible for the child.

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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

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and authorizes each committee to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

**LD 2154 An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange**

Public Law 2025, chapter 732 establishes the Health Information Technology Fund within the Department of Health and Human Services to support the operation and sustainability of a state-designated statewide health information exchange and to meet the State's matching fund requirements to obtain available federal funding for that purpose. The fund is nonlapsing and consists of money appropriated or allocated by the Legislature, federal funds, grants, gifts and other funds from public or private sources. The law provides one-time funding of \$350,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

**LD 2177 An Act to Update and Improve the MaineCare Reimbursement System**

Public Law 2025, chapter 664 updates certain definitions and rule-making requirements related to the establishment of a MaineCare payment model and the determination of MaineCare reimbursements for covered services.

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***ANALYST NOTES***

*This section includes additional information relating to certain LDs as noted in a committee digest. This is 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.*

**LD 52 Resolve, Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to Study Options for Allowing Children in the Department's Custody to Receive Federal Benefits**

Although this bill was not enacted, funding to offset the use of federal benefits to pay for or reimburse the Department of Health and Human Services for any costs of the child's care and to require the department to establish a special-needs trust to use and conserve the child's benefit was provided in Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session. Funding was also provided for training to children receiving federal benefits, department staff and representative payees who receive the federal benefits on behalf of the child. Two positions were established to provide report creation and dissemination for annual accounting to the child, the child's attorney, or their guardian. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part A.

**LD 117 An Act to Provide Funding for Sexual Assault Services**

This bill was enacted in 2025 as Public Law 2025, chapter 441. An additional \$2 million in one time funds for the same purposes was included in Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part A.

**LD 182 An Act to Provide Per Diem Payments for MaineCare Residents of Maine Veterans' Homes**

Although this bill was not enacted, a requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to establish reimbursement rates for Maine Veterans' Homes nursing facility services covered by the MaineCare program, as well as one-time funding, was incorporated in Part A and Part WW of Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session. It requires the MaineCare program to reimburse veterans' facilities for covered nursing home services on a per resident daily rate basis that is reasonable and adequate to cover the total MaineCare allowable costs of operating veterans' facilities. The per diems developed must be adjusted for inflation to the same extent that reimbursement rates for nonveterans' nursing facilities are adjusted. It also requires the department to make a one-time supplemental payment to Maine Veterans' Homes residential care facilities in fiscal year 2026-27 to cover the difference between MaineCare payments and actual allowed MaineCare costs. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Parts A and WW.

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### *ANALYST NOTES*

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#### **LD 331 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports**

Although this bill was not enacted, Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session, included language in Part YYY-1 directing the Department of Health and Human Services to determine a consistent and reasonable allocation method to distribute a one-time supplemental payment to acute care hospitals. Part YYY-2 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for inpatient diagnosis-related group reimbursement rates subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 45, effective July 1, 2026. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part YYY.

#### **LD 335 An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights**

Although this bill was not enacted, the substance of this bill was incorporated into Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session in Part Z. Part Z does the following.

1. It establishes the Fund to Maintain Access to Statewide Family Planning Services to provide a grant to a single qualified provider to provide management and oversight of the delivery of family planning services. It is the intent of the Legislature that, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, \$5,000,000 be appropriated from the General Fund to the fund each year.
2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide funding to family planning services providers in the State if funding under Title X of the federal Public Health Service Act has been reduced or eliminated by the Federal Government or the provider has withdrawn from Title X funding due to the imposition of conditions attached to the funding.
3. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to cover family planning services for MaineCare members who receive services from a provider that is a prohibited provider under Section 71113 of federal Public Law 119-21 (2025) and any future similar federal law. Services provided after July 1, 2025 are reimbursed retroactively.

Public Law 2025, chapter 650 also provided one-time funding to offset the provider impact of the federal budget reconciliation law in federal Public Law 119-21, Section 71113, which prohibits federal payments to prohibited entities, as defined in federal Public Law 119-21, Section 71113, for items and services for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2025. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part Z.

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

***ANALYST NOTES***

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**LD 389 Resolve, to Increase Transparency and Evaluate Emergency Response Through a COVID-19 Review Commission**

Although this bill was not enacted, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services directed the Department of Health and Human Services, as part of a scheduled State Government Evaluation Act review, to include an evaluation of its COVID-19 response in its submission. The department complied and included a COVID-19 response review in its State Government Evaluation Act report submitted to the committee.

**LD 561 An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements for Certain Child Care Providers**

Although this bill was not enacted, the substance of this bill was incorporated in LD 1728, enacted as Public Law 2025, chapter 587. That law includes a requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse child care providers for subsidies based on enrollment rather than attendance. See Enacted Law Summary, LD 1728.

**LD 814 An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults**

Although this bill was not enacted, Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session, included a one-time appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to address unmet needs of older adults through services and programs delivered by the Area Agencies on Aging. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part A.

**LD 875 An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Although this bill was not enacted, Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session, included a one-time appropriation of \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to fund services for victims of domestic violence. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part A.

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

***ANALYST NOTES***

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**LD 1932 An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development**

Although this bill was not enacted, its substance was included in Part FF of Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session and Public Law 2025, chapter 752. Part FF of Public Law 2025, chapter 650 does the following:

1. It changes the membership of the Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee to include a representative of the long-term care ombudsman program and a representative of an organization that provides personal care services in the home.
2. It applies a one-time cost-of-living adjustment of 3.07% for direct care services provided under certain sections of the MaineCare Benefits Manual and state-funded home and community-based services. This adjustment is applied beginning January 1, 2027.
3. It requires the Maine Health Data Organization and the Department of Health and Human Services to work with the department’s vendors to allow for the organization to develop a plan to measure the care gap in essential support worker services paid by the MaineCare program or a similar state-funded program. “Care gap” is defined as the difference between the services individuals are authorized to receive and the services that they actually received. This change aligns with recommendations included in a legislative report submitted pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 113. It also requires the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters to determine which existing reports required by statute that are submitted by the department to the committee could be amended to include the ongoing care gap funding requirements.

Public Law 2025, chapter 752 amended Public Law 2025, chapter 650, Part FF to apply the one-time cost-of-living increase to additional essential care workers. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 705; Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part FF.

**LD 1955 An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability**

Although this bill was not enacted, ongoing funding of \$10,000,000 for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program, beginning in fiscal year 2026-27, was included in Public Law 2025, chapter 650, Part VV, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session. Part VV also allows the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to accept donations or grants for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program from any source and provides that funds to support the program are nonlapsing. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part VV.

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

***ANALYST NOTES***

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**LD 1959 An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Reducing General Assistance Reimbursement Maximums for Payment of Costs of Providing Emergency Shelter**

Although this bill was not enacted, a total of \$4,750,000 in one-time allocations to emergency homeless shelters was included in Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part A.

**LD 2065 An Act to Provide One-time Funds to Support the Construction of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for At-risk Youth**

Although this bill was not enacted, a total of \$3,399,680 in one-time allocations to support the establishment of a youth psychiatric residential treatment facility was included in Public Law 2025, chapter 650, the budget bill enacted in the Second Regular Session. See Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Enacted Law Summary, LD 2212, Part A.

**132nd LEGISLATURE  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Summary of Committee Actions**

<b>I. BILLS AND PAPERS CONSIDERED</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Activity</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
<b>A. Bills referred to Committee</b>			
<i>Bills referred and reported out</i>	25	56.8%	3.4%
<i><u>Bills carried over from previous session</u></i>	<u>19</u>	<u>43.2%</u>	<u>2.6%</u>
<b>Total Bills referred</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>B. Bills reported out by law or joint order and not referred back to committee</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>C. Bills referred and not reported out</b>	<u>0</u>	<b>0.0%</b>	<u><b>0.0%</b></u>
<b>Total Bills considered by Committee</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Orders and Resolutions referred to Committee</b>			
<i>Joint Study Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders carried over from previous session</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Orders and Resolutions Referred</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>II. COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of this Committee's Reports</u>	<u>% of All Committee Reports</u>
<b>A. Unanimous committee reports</b>			
<i>Ought to Pass</i>	2	4.5%	0.5%
<i>Ought to Pass as Amended</i>	23	52.3%	5.2%
<i>Leave to Withdraw</i>	1	2.3%	0.2%
<i><u>Ought Not to Pass</u></i>	<u>8</u>	<u>18.2%</u>	<u>1.8%</u>
<b>Total unanimous reports</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>77.3%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>B. Divided committee reports</b>			
<i>Two-way reports</i>	9	20.5%	2.0%
<i>Three-way reports</i>	1	2.3%	0.2%
<i><u>Four-way reports</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total divided reports</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Total committee reports</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
<b>III. CONFIRMATION HEARINGS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>IV. FINAL DISPOSITION</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Bills/Papers</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
<b>A. Bills and Papers enacted or finally passed</b>			
<i>Joint Study Orders</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Public laws</i>	25	56.8%	3.4%
<i>Private and Special Laws</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Resolves</i>	6	13.6%	0.8%
<i><u>Constitutional Resolutions</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Enacted or Finally Passed</b>	<b>31 *</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>B. Resolves to authorize major substantive rules</b>			
<i>Rules authorized without legislative changes</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Rules authorized with legislative changes</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Rules not authorized by the Legislature</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total number of rules reviewed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>C. Bills vetoed or held by Governor</b>			
<i>Vetoed over-ridden</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Vetoed sustained</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Held by the Governor</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

\* Total number of enacted laws includes six bills that were reported out of the HHS Committee during the 131st First Regular or First Special Sessions, carried over on the Special Appropriations Table and then enacted during the Second Regular Session; and five bills that were enacted during the First Regular or First Special Sessions, held by the Governor and then became law at the beginning of the Second Regular Session.