

MaineHealth

Legislative Priorities for MaineHealth

- **Investments in the delivery of behavioral health care to improve patient safety and reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization.**
 - **LD 1470 – Sanford Inpatient Psychiatric Beds** (Rep. Michele Meyer): Fiscal Note: Not Yet Determined; \$239,242 in the 129th Legislature
 - LD 1470 requires the Department to provide a rate that reflects the cost of care for the new Sanford inpatient psychiatric beds.
 - These new beds were developed under a trust agreement that the State would support adequate rates to cover the cost of its MaineCare patients.

- **Maine Behavioral Healthcare (MBH) had 1,216 patients who have been referred for community services over the last three months but not yet seen by a provider (as of May 2021).**
 - **LD 1147 - Medication Management** (Rep. Colleen Madigan): Fiscal Note: Not Yet Determined
 - LD 1147 will increase the rate for medication management services provided by nurse practitioners and physician assistants by 25%, and by 10% for psychiatrists.
 - MBH has an average of 425 clients waiting for medication management, and the average time to be seen is approximately six months.
 - MBH loses \$142 per hour of medication management provided to patients.

 - **LD 582 - ACT** (Rep. Colleen Madigan): Fiscal Note: \$625,875
 - LD 582 will increase the rate for ACT Team services by 25%.
 - MBH loses \$22 per hour of ACT service.

 - **LD 496 – Outpatient Therapy** (Rep. Lori Gramlich): Fiscal Note: Not Yet Determined
 - LD 496 will increase the rate for outpatient therapy by 25%.
 - MBH loses \$31.20 per hour on outpatient therapy.

- **Targeted investments to address severe health care workforce shortage:**
 - **LD 273 - Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program** (Sen. Sam Zager):
Fiscal Note: \$400,000
 - LD 273 provides tuition scholarships of \$25,000 per year, per qualifying Maine student enrolled in Maine Medical Center's Maine Track program or the University of New England's College of Osteopathic Medicine.
 - Public private partnership: The Doctors for Maine's Future program requires that Maine Medical Center and University of New England privately raise dollar for dollar matching funds to support additional medical students.
 - 45% of the practicing Maine Track graduates who have completed training and do not have a military commitment, currently practice in Maine.
 - **LD 119 - Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program** (Rep. Michele Meyer):
Fiscal Note: \$1 million in one-time funding
 - Maine is expected to have a shortage of 3,200 RNs by 2025.
 - In 2020, MaineHealth filled 759 RN positions with external hires, including new graduate nurses, but 457 positions remain vacant.
 - **LD 481 - General Fund Bond Issue To Support the State's 10-year Economic Plan** (Rep. Sawin Millett): Fiscal Note: \$80 million bond proposal
 - Provides funding to Maine's Community Colleges to support training for between 4,000 and 5,000 Mainers per year for the next four years – about 20,000 Mainers in all.
 - MaineHealth asks that targeted investments are made to train workers in the health care field, like CNAs and Medical Assistants.
 - **Funding for Maine Community Colleges System Licensed-Based Programs**
 - The Education Committee unanimously supported an initiative for \$2.5 million in ongoing funding for license-based programs, with \$2 million of that earmarked to significantly expand the nursing program.

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