

CCSM Legislative Summary (Short Version)

State of Maine 127th Legislature: 2nd Session Bills/Carry overs Final Report

Report Date: May 2, 2016

Here is a link to the Maine Legislative site where you can find more detailed information on bills that Members of the Consumer Council System of Maine worked with other organizations and/or testified on. <http://www.maine.gov/legis/>

Where to find your State Representative: <http://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist.htm>

Where to find your State Senator: <http://legisweb1.mainelegislature.org/wp/senate/find-your-senator/>

Where to find Gov. LePage's Vetoes:

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Bills_All&id=672511&v=article2013all

| Name of Bill | Main Sponsor | CCSM Position | Testimony | Bill/Status/Outcome |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| LD 440 "An Act To Create a Secure, Therapeutic Mental Health Unit Committee: Criminal Justice | Sen. Gerzofsky | Supported with stated concerns | Yes | Carried over from last session Outcome: DEAD |
| LD 633 An Act To Improve the Health of Maine Citizens and the Economy of Maine by Providing Affordable Market-based Coverage Options to Low-income Uninsured Citizens" Committee: Health' and Human Services" | Sen. Saviello | Monitored | No | Carried over from last session Outcome: DEAD |
| LD 842: "An Act To Establish Peer Center Reimbursement" Committee: Health' and Human Services" | Rep. Stuckey | Supported | No | Carried over from last session Outcome: DEAD |
| LD 966: "An Act To Assist Patients in Need of Psychiatric Services" Committee: Health' and Human Services" | Rep. Malaby | Monitored | No | Carried Over Outcome: DEAD |
| LD 1030: "An Act To Better Coordinate the Work of Mental Health Crisis Agencies with Law Enforcement Agencies" Committee: Health and Human Services | Rep. Dion | Monitored | No- We gave relevant information at the Work Session | Carried over from last session Outcome: DEAD |

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| <p>Commission to Study Difficult to Place Patients</p> <p>Link to the final Report:</p> <p>http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/DTPPFinalreport.pdf</p> | <p>Rep. Gattine</p> | <p>Supported</p> | | <p>Simonne, CCSM ED. was appointed to this task force and was part of making recommendations that resulted in a final report to members of the Legislature This issue was heard through 7 separate bills. L.D. 1615 Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Continue the Study of Difficult-to- place Patients Placed on Special Study Table Outcome: DEAD L.D. 1616 An Act to Expand Geropsychiatric Facility Capacity Outcome: DEAD L.D. 1617 An Act Regarding the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program Outcome: Governor’s Veto Overridden L.D. 1618 An Act to Provide Additional Resources for Nurse Education Consultants in the Department of Health and Human Services Outcome: DEAD L.D. 1619 Resolve, Regarding Home Care Service Rates for Serving Persons with Complex Medical Needs Outcome: DEAD L.D. 1620 Resolve, Establishing a Stakeholder Group to Examine Methods of Protecting the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities from Financial Exploitation</p> |
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| | | | | <p>Outcome: DEAD (cont. on next page) L.D. 1621 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend its Rules Regarding Reimbursement to Hospitals for Patients Awaiting Placement in Nursing Facilities</p> <p>Outcome: DEAD</p> |
| <p>LD 1209: “An Act To Increase the Effectiveness of Peer Supports in the State” Committee: Health and Human Services</p> <p>CCSM will continue to monitor SAMHS’ Progress in fulfilling the amendment agreement.</p> | Rep. Gattine | Supported | Yes, w/ an amendment | <p>Carried over from last session</p> <p>Outcome: DEAD– A recommendation was agreed upon to touch base with SAMHS in early fall to see what progress is being made as outlined in the letter submitted by the Dept. regarding the Intentional Peer Support Program and to discuss the possibility of putting IPSAC, Oversight Board into statute.</p> <p>Letter sent by HHS Legislative Committee on April 29th to DHHS requesting that a Progress Report be given to the HHS Committee by January 2nd, 2017.</p> |
| <p>LD 1214: “An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Mental Health Working Group” Committee: Judiciary</p> | Rep. Hobbins | Supported | Yes | <p>Carried over from last session</p> <p>Part of this bill was passed at the last legislative session dealing with putting in place a process to deal with people stuck waiting in hospital emergency rooms.</p> <p>The second part dealing with people getting stuck waiting for forensic evaluations because of a shortage of</p> |

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| | | | | <p>forensic evaluators. Tabled to be revisited this session due to waiting on a Court RFP to address the forensic evaluator shortage.</p> <p>Outcome: DEAD- Work continues on the Court RFP. If needed a new bill can be submitted at the next legislative session, but the committee is satisfied that the Court RFP will meet the requirements that has come out of previous work done on LD. 1214.</p> |
| <p>LD 1240: “An Act To Phase Out the Payment of Subminimum Wages to Workers with Disabilities”</p> <p>Committee: Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development (LCRED)</p> | Sen. Katz | Supported | Yes | <p>Carried over from last session</p> <p>Outcome: DEAD</p> |
| <p>LD 1526: “An Act To Permit Disclosure of Certain Intelligence and Investigative Record Information by a Criminal Justice Agency to a Nongovernmental Advocacy Program for Persons with Mental Illness”.</p> <p>Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety</p> | Sen. Burns | Opposed | Yes | <p>Outcome: Became Law without Governor's Signature</p> |
| <p>LD 1577: “An Act To Increase the Availability of Mental Health Services</p> <p>Committee: Health and Human Services”</p> <p>This bill provides that, under certain circumstances, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's</p> | Governor's Bill Sen. Sanderson | Opposed | Yes | <p>Outcome: DEAD</p> |

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| designee may determine that a mental health unit at a correctional facility is an appropriate institution or program for the placement of persons who have been determined to be incompetent to stand trial or not criminally responsible by reason of insanity. | | | | |
| <p>LD 1606: "An Act To Provide Funding to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund"</p> <p>Committee: Appropriations and Financial Affairs</p> | Governor's Bill Sen. Hamper | Opposed | Yes | <p>This bill requires the transfer of \$67,292,995 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$5,389,377 in fiscal year 2016-17 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.</p> <p>Outcome: Passed to be Enacted. Signed by the Governor</p> |
| <p>Section 17 Services Eligibility Changes</p> <p>Committee: Health & Human Services</p> | Rep Gattine | Opposed | Yes | <p>Citizen's Petition requesting a Public Hearing held on April 1 PM HHS Cross Building R 209</p> <p>Work Session: April 4, 5, & 6</p> <p>Outcome: See LD 1698</p> <p>The majority voted in favor of requesting a bill to put a moratorium (stopping the process) on going into formal rule making until the Legislature is back in session in January when they can look at it or stop it before it goes into a formal rule making process.</p> |
| LD 1645: "An Act To Address Employee Recruitment and Retention Issues at State" | Rep Katz | Monitored | | Bill with amendment strikes the bill and provides that the wages for select |

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| <p>Mental Health Institutions"</p> <p>Committee: Appropriations and Financial Affairs</p> | | | | <p>personnel at the state mental health institutions must be increased beginning with the first pay period commencing on or after July 1, 2016. This amendment provides for the funding of the General Fund costs of the wage increases through transfers from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.</p> <p>Outcome: Governor's Veto Overturned</p> |
| <p>LD 1696: Resolve, To Establish a Moratorium on Rate Changes Related to Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Sections 13, 17, 28 and 65".</p> <p>Committee: Health and Human Services</p> | <p>Rep Gattine</p> | <p>Supported</p> | | <p>This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to present a completed rate study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on Rule Chapter 101: MaineCare 17 Benefits Manual, Sections 13, 17, 28 and 65 on January 2, 2017. The Department of Health and Human Services may not begin any rulemaking connected with rate changes under those sections until at least 60 days after the completed rate study has been presented to the committee.</p> <p>Outcome: Governor's Veto Overturned</p> |

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| <p>LD 1698:"Resolve, Related To Legislative Review of a Change to the MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Section 17</p> <p>Committee: Health and Human Services</p> | <p>Rep Gattine</p> | <p>Supported</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>This resolve, which is an emergency: 1. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to extend eligibility for community support services to an individual who received services under Chapter 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 17 before Section 17 was updated on March 22, 2016 if that individual is found to no longer meet the eligibility requirements under the updated Section 17 until that individual is able to access appropriate services under any other section of the MaineCare Benefits Manual. This extension of eligibility may not exceed a period of 120 days after that individual's current authorization period has expired; 2. Establishes that an individual who was receiving bridging rental assistance program housing subsidy vouchers due to Section 17 eligibility immediately before Section 17 was updated on March 22, 2016 continues to remain eligible for the housing subsidy vouchers, unless the individual becomes ineligible for the housing subsidy vouchers for a reason unrelated to Section 17 eligibility; 3. Until June 30, 2017, requires the Office of MaineCare Services within the Department of Health and Human Services to authorize 90-day extensions of community support services under</p> |
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| | | | <p>Section 17 for an individual who received Section 17 services before Section 17 was updated on March 22, 2016 if that individual is able to reasonably demonstrate to the department that that individual has been unable to access appropriate services under any other section of the MaineCare Benefits Manual; and 4. Provides the department with the authority to adopt emergency rules as necessary for implementation of this resolve</p> <p>Outcome: Became law without Governor's signature</p> |
| <p>LD 1700: "Resolve, To Require the Gathering of Information in Order To Develop a Plan To Expand the Infrastructure Capacity for State Forensic and Civil Mental Health Treatment"</p> <p>Committee: Health and Human Services</p> | <p>Rep. Malaby</p> | <p>Supported</p> | <p>Presented to the full Committee was "a Resolve the purpose of which would be to seek input from a variety of stakeholders, providers, staff and interested parties through a Request for Information (RFI) on alternatives so that DHHS can evaluate these alternatives and bring back information to the legislature for consideration in order to design solutions to the problems facing Riverview that are both fiscally responsible for the legal and treatment needs of all patients."</p> <p>Outcome: DEAD</p> |