

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 283

H.P. 199

House of Representatives, February 1, 2021

Resolve, To Address Inequities for Certain Direct Care Workers

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 28, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to increase MaineCare reimbursement rates. Resolved: That, no later than October 1, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 17, Allowances for Community Support Services, and Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, to increase reimbursement rates for daily living support services and any home and community-based services provided to children and adults by behavioral health professionals by 20%. The rule must specify that the increase in reimbursement rates must be applied to wages and benefits for employees who provide direct care services and not to administrators or managers. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Increase to employee wages. Resolved: That to qualify for the reimbursement rate increase pursuant to section 1, an agency providing services must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Department of Health and Human Services, that an increase in wages and benefits has been granted to employees providing direct care services that equals the amount of the projected increase in reimbursement to be received. The increase in wages and benefits must be paid or granted retroactively from the date the department begins reimbursing at the increased rates.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Sections 17 and 65 to increase reimbursement rates for daily living support services and any home and community-based services provided to children and adults by behavioral health professionals by 20%. It requires that the increase in reimbursement rates must be applied to wages and benefits for employees who provide direct care services and not to administrators or managers.