**An Act To Clear Waiting Lists for and Ensure Timely Access to Mental Health Services for Maine Children**

**Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** behavioral health services are an important service for an individual's overall health and well-being; and

**Whereas,** rates of reimbursement for services create barriers to the abundance of services provided;

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec.** **1. Department of Health and Human Services to increase MaineCare** **rates.** That, no later than July 1, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, Children's Home and Community Based Treatment, and Section 97, Appendix D, Principles of Reimbursement for Child Care Facilities, to increase reimbursement rates by 30%.

**Sec.** **2. Appropriations and allocations.**  The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147**

Initiative: Provides funding to increase rates in department rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, Children's Home and Community Based Treatment, by 30% and in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97, Appendix D, Principles of Reimbursement for Child Care Facilities, by 30%, by July 1, 2021.

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| **GENERAL FUND** | **2021-22** | **2022-23** |
| All Other | $8,770,847 | $8,770,847 |
|   | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | $8,770,847 | $8,770,847 |

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| **FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND** | **2021-22** | **2022-23** |
| All Other | $17,984,466 | $17,984,466 |
|   | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | $17,984,466 | $17,984,466 |

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| **OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS** | **2021-22** | **2022-23** |
| All Other | $1,118,937 | $1,118,937 |
|   | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | $1,118,937 | $1,118,937 |

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

**SUMMARY**

This bill provides funding to increase rates in rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, Children's Home and Community Based Treatment and Section 97, Appendix D, Principles of Reimbursement for Child Care Facilities by 30% no later than July 1, 2021.