**An Act To Ensure Equitable Geographic Access to Long-term Care Services in the Department of Health and Human Services**

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

**Sec.** **1. 22 MRSA §7304, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

**4.** **Statewide access.**  In accordance with this subsection and section 7305, subsection 4, the department shall ensure that in-home and community support services for adults with long-term care needs under this subtitle be equitably distributed across geographic areas of the State. Providers of these services must, at a minimum, be available for telephonic or in-person meetings in order to provide services in every county in the State. The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires that access to in-home and community support services for adults with long-term care needs be equitably distributed across geographic areas of the State and provides that, at a minimum, providers must be available for telephonic or in-person meetings in order to provide services in every county in the State. The bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt routine technical rules to implement these provisions.