



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 496

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H.P. 359

House of Representatives, February 19, 2021

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

(EMERGENCY)

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Received by the Clerk of the House on February 17, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.  
Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and  
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, MADIGAN of Waterville, McCREIGHT of  
Harpwell, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, PERRY of Calais, SACHS of Freeport, STOVER of  
Boothbay, WHITE of Waterville.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

21 **Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147**

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

27	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
28	All Other	\$8,770,847	\$8,770,847
29			
30	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$8,770,847</u>	<u>\$8,770,847</u>

32	<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
33	All Other	\$17,984,466	\$17,984,466
34			
35	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$17,984,466</u>	<u>\$17,984,466</u>

36			
37	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
38	All Other	\$1,118,937	\$1,118,937
39			
40	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$1,118,937</u>	<u>\$1,118,937</u>

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**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.