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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 872, L.D. 2151, “An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs in Underserved Areas”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs in Underserved Areas'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

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

Whereas, federally qualified health centers serve rural and other underserved areas, delivering health care that would otherwise be inaccessible to residents of those areas; and

Whereas, the number of retail pharmacies and the hours of operation of retail pharmacies in underserved areas of the State have been dramatically reduced in recent years due to workforce challenges and other economic challenges; and

Whereas, federally qualified health centers can compensate for the decline in availability of retail pharmacies and for the restrictive practices of prescription drug manufacturers only by developing or expanding their capacity to provide retail pharmacy services as part of their health center services, yet existing health center revenues and resources are insufficient to support such development and expansion; and

Whereas, it is therefore essential to provide immediate funding support for federally qualified health centers to develop and expand retail pharmacy capacity in this State to address the critical shortage of access to affordable prescription drugs; and

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

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to distribute funding to expand retail pharmacy services in federally qualified health centers.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this section
2 as "the department," shall distribute funding to expand retail and mobile pharmacy services
3 in federally qualified health centers in accordance with this section. No later than December
4 15, 2026, upon the receipt of a proposal to expand pharmacy services and a proposed
5 budget from a federally qualified health center eligible under this section, the department
6 shall grant the funds appropriated under section 3 to the following 9 federally qualified
7 health centers that serve residents of the State in rural and underserved communities in the
8 following amounts to support the planning, designing, construction and expansion of one
9 or more licensed retail or mobile pharmacies as part of the federally qualified health center's
10 services:

- 11 1. Bucksport Regional Health Center, \$302,648;
- 12 2. Community Clinical Services, \$444,445;
- 13 3. Eastport Health Care, \$444,445;
- 14 4. Fish River Rural Health, \$444,445;
- 15 5. Harrington Family Health Center, \$444,445;
- 16 6. HealthReach Community Health Centers, \$444,445;
- 17 7. Maine Mobile Health Program, \$150,000;
- 18 8. Penobscot Community Health Care, \$444,445; and
- 19 9. St. Croix Regional Family Health Center, \$444,445.

20 Upon issuance of funding pursuant to this section, the department shall promptly
21 implement a change in scope adjustment pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22,
22 section 3174-V, subsection 4 to reflect the ongoing costs for the federally qualified health
23 center receiving the funding of operating expanded or improved pharmacy services. Any
24 unused funds not granted by the department to a federally qualified health center as
25 provided in this section lapse to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

26 **Sec. 2. Report from Maine Primary Care Association. Resolved:** That, no
27 later than February 15, 2027, the Maine Primary Care Association shall submit a report to
28 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage,
29 insurance and financial services matters on the grant funds provided to the federally
30 qualified health centers identified in section 1, including information on the status of
31 implementation of the proposals to expand retail and mobile pharmacy services, an updated
32 proposal budget and an accounting of any money spent.

33 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
34 appropriations and allocations are made.

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

36 **Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143**

37 Initiative: Provides one-time funding in fiscal year 2026-27 for the Department of Health
38 and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to grant funds to 9
39 federally qualified health centers to expand retail pharmacy services.

40 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
41 All Other	\$0	\$3,563,763

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GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$3,563,763

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

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve. The amendment provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to expand retail and mobile pharmacy services in federally qualified health centers. The amendment directs the department to, no later than December 15, 2026 and upon the receipt of a proposal to expand pharmacy services and a proposed budget, grant funds in specified amounts to 9 federally qualified health centers that serve residents of the State in rural and underserved communities to support the planning, designing, construction and expansion of one or more licensed retail or mobile pharmacies as part of the services offered by those federally qualified health centers. The amendment requires the Maine Primary Care Association to, no later than February 15, 2027, report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters on the grant funds provided to the federally qualified health centers, including information on the status of implementation of the proposals to expand retail and mobile pharmacy services, an updated proposal budget and an accounting of any money spent.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)