

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
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December 16, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
#100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0100

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am pleased to submit the report on rulemaking for the first quarter of FY 2026, pursuant to Public Law 2003, c. 689, §A-2, requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to submit quarterly reports to the Committee, summarizing the rulemaking activity of the Department.

We have based our report on the format and information supplied by the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions, to tally rules that have been adopted and proposed for the Department.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments concerning this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sara Gagné-Holmes".

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner

SGH/klv

cc: Governor's Office

DHHS Quarterly Report on Rulemaking

**Submitted to the
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

(Pursuant to P.L. 2003 Chapter 689, Part A § A-2)

P.L. 2003, ch. 689, Part A § A-2, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit quarterly reports on rulemaking, pursuant to:

***“Sec. A-2. Quarterly report; rulemaking.** Beginning October 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters with a quarterly report that summarizes rule—making activity of the Department of Health and Human Services.”*

The intent of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (A.P.A.), [5 M.R.S. ch 375](#), is to improve public access to agency decision-making and to increase awareness of agency rules. In Maine, the Administrative Procedure Act was adopted at the First Session of the 108th Legislature, with some amendments since. It applies uniform requirements to state agencies which have rulemaking power, and sets minimum standards for agencies to follow in adopting and implementing rules. Very generally, the A.P.A. establishes a uniform, comprehensive set of procedures covering:

- The administrative actions of state agencies, including rulemaking, advisory rulings, adjudicatory proceedings, and licensing; and
- Judicial review of those actions.

We have based our report on the format used by the Secretary of State’s Office, Bureau of Corporations, Elections, and Commissions, to tally rules that are adopted, and separately those that are proposed, for the Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to the “subject matter” noted in the right-most column, additional summary statements for each of these rules are filed as paper-copy “basis statements” in the office of the Secretary of State’s APA Coordinator and are available for review.

Rules adopted by DHHS in the first quarter FY 2026:

Effective Date (may have been published later)	Citation/ Adopted Rule Number	Adopted by DHHS in the first quarter – FY 2026	TYPE OF RULE	CHAPTER NUMBER & TITLE
7-1-25	10-144 2025-137	Office for Family Independence	Amend.	Ch. 331, Public Assistance Manual Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Manual – Chapter II, TANF Rule #124 – COFA Update www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofir/rules/index.shtml
7-1-25	10-144 2025-138	Office for Family Independence	Amend.	Ch. 609, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Rules (SNAP E&T Rule #8 – Provider Determination) www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofir/rules/index.shtml

Effective Date (may have been published later)	Citation/ Adopted Rule Number	Adopted by DHHS in the first quarter – FY 2026	TYPE OF RULE	CHAPTER NUMBER & TITLE
7-15-25	10-144 2025-143	Office for Family Independence	Amend.	Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules (Section 111-7; SNAP Rule #238 – ABAWD Update) www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofir/rules/index.shtml
7-20-25	10-144 2025-144	Office for Family Independence	Amend.	Ch 330, Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment (HOPE) Program Rules (HOPE Rule #104 – Section 4: Dental Services Update) www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofir/rules/index.shtml
8-18-25	10-148/ 2025-162	Office of Child and Family Services	Amend.	Ch. 6, Child Care Affordability Program Rules www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/policy.shtml
8-29-25	10-144/ 2025-172	Office of MaineCare Services	Emergency	Ch. 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual (Chapter III, Section 45, Principles of Reimbursement for Hospital Services) www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/about-us/policies-rules
9-3-2025	10-144/ 2025-173	Division of Licensing and Certification	Emergency	Ch. 108, Home and Community Support Service Agencies Licensing Rule www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking
9-16-25	10-144/ 2025-177	Office for Family Independence	Emergency	Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules (Section 111-5 and 111-7 – SNAP Rule #240E – ABAWD Update) www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofir/rules/index.shtml
9-16-25	10-144/ 2025-178	Office for Family Independence	Emergency (Withdrawn on 9/17/25)	Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules (Sections 555-4 and 555-5 – SNAP Rule #242E – LiHEAP Update) www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofir/rules/index.shtml

Effective Date (may have been published later)	Citation/ Adopted Rule Number	Adopted by DHHS in the first quarter – FY 2026	TYPE OF RULE	CHAPTER NUMBER & TITLE
9-18-25	10-144/ 2025-165 (Major Substantive)	Division of Licensing and Certification	Amend.	Ch. 113, Assisted Housing Program Licensing Rule www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking
9-18-25	10-144 2025-183	Office for Family Independence	Emergency	Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules (Sections 555-4 and 555-5 – SNAP Rule #242E – LiHEAP Update) www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/rules/index.shtml
9-24-25	10-148/ 2025-185	Office of Child and Family Services	Emergency	Ch. 31, Quality Rating and Improvement System: Rising Stars for ME www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/policy.shtml

Rules proposed by DHHS in the first quarter FY 2026:

DATE	PROPOSED RULE NUMBER	Rules <i>proposed</i> by DHHS in the first quarter FY 2026	CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE
7-2-25	2025-P077	Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention	Ch. 231, Rules Relating to Drinking Water www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/rules/maine-cdc-rules.shtml
9-3-25	2025-P128	Office for Family Independence	Ch. 331, Public Assistance Manual Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – Maximum Benefit and Standard of Need Chart; TANF Rule #125P – COLA Updates www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/rules/index.shtml
9-3-25	2025-P129	Division of Licensing and Certification	Ch. 108, Home and Community Support Services Agencies Licensing Rule www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking

DATE	PROPOSED RULE NUMBER	Rules <i>proposed</i> by DHHS in the first quarter FY 2026	CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE
9-10-25	2025-P134	Office of MaineCare Services	Ch. 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual (Chapter III, Section 45, Principles of Reimbursement for Hospital Services www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/about-us/policies-rules
9-17-25	2025-P137	Office for Family Independence	Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Rules (Section 999-3 – SNAP Rule #237 – FFY 2026 Budgeting Figures) www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofir/rules/index.shtml
9-17-25	2025-P139	Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention	Ch. 276, Rules for Influenza Agent Distribution Report (CORRECTION: Comment Deadline) www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/rules/maine-cdc-rules.shtml