

Date:

(Filing No. S-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 755, L.D. 1937, “An Act to Require Hospitals and Hospital-affiliated Providers to Provide Financial Assistance Programs for Medical Care”

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 3 in paragraph E in the 7th line (page 4, line 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: “30” and inserting the following: ‘45’

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 5 by striking out all of paragraph B (page 5, lines 4 to 7 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

‘B. Providing, in conspicuous locations within the hospital, including admission, registration and waiting areas, information regarding how patients can access physical copies of the plain language summary under paragraph A, the financial assistance program application and any application instructions;’

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 8 in the 4th line (page 6, line 4 in L.D.) by striking out the following: “3%” and inserting the following: ‘4%’

Amend the bill in section 3 in §1716-A in subsection 10 in the first line (page 6, line 11 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: “shall” the following: ‘, by July 1, 2028,’

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

‘Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Division of Licensing and Certification Z036

Initiative: Establishes one Comprehensive Health Planner II position, effective July 1, 2026, to develop program applications and implement the department's enforcement requirements for charity care and other financial assistance programs required of hospitals, including investigating patient complaints, taking corrective actions and providing staff support for any necessary legal action. The initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$37,721
All Other	\$0	\$2,467
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$40,188
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$73,223
All Other	\$0	\$6,599
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$79,822

Sec. 8. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It changes the requirement that a hospital determine a patient's eligibility for financial assistance and inform the patient of the eligibility determination within 30 days from the date a completed application is submitted to within 45 days from the date a completed application is submitted.

2. It changes the requirement for hospitals to provide physical copies of the plain language summary, the financial assistance program application and any application instructions in conspicuous locations within the hospital, including admission, registration and waiting areas, to a requirement that hospitals provide in these conspicuous locations information as to how a patient can access physical copies of these documents.

3. It changes the requirement that a hospital offer a patient with a documented family income that does not exceed 400% of the federal poverty level a payment plan that requires monthly out-of-pocket payments that do not exceed 3% of the patient's monthly family income that is not exempt from attachment or garnishment under state law to a requirement that the offered payment plan not exceed 4% of that income.

4. It provides that the date by which a hospital is required to provide an online option through which an applicant may file an application for charity care is July 1, 2028.

5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

6. It changes the effective date of the legislation from January 1, 2026 to July 1, 2026.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)