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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 926, L.D. 2175, “An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs in Underserved Areas”

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph D in subparagraph (3) in the 3rd line (page 2, line 25 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "drugs," the following: 'improving access to prescription drugs through mobile outreach,'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

'**Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §259, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

3. Allocation of pharmacy services support funding. Each federally qualified health center may apply for funds made available pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph D by providing the department with a budget and plan for developing or improving pharmacy services and access to affordably priced prescription drugs for its patients. The department shall allocate available funds equitably among all applicants based on the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed development or improvement of patient access to affordably priced prescription drugs and the availability of other pharmacy services in the areas served by a federally qualified health center applying for funds. In developing criteria for awarding available funds, the department shall consult with and consider the recommendations of a statewide association of federally qualified health centers. Any available funds not awarded in fiscal year 2024-25 must be deposited in a nonlapsing account from which awards may be made in subsequent fiscal periods for the purposes set forth in subsection 1, paragraph D.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following:

'**Sec. 5. Implementation.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall publish a schedule and instructions for the content of applications and criteria for determining awards for the pharmacy services support program described in this legislation. The department's schedule must ensure that initial awards of funding be made no later than December 15, 2024 and must ensure that applicants have no less than 60 days to prepare and submit applications after instructions for the content of applications and criteria for selection have been published. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 contrary, the department shall ensure that a majority of the persons selected to evaluate the
 2 applications have substantial training or experience in the operation and management of a
 3 federally qualified health center, by including among those evaluating the applications
 4 volunteers recommended by a statewide association of federally qualified health centers.'

5 Amend the bill in section 6 in the 2nd and 3rd lines (page 3, lines 14 and 15 in L.D.)
 6 by striking out the following: "Office of Affordable Health Care, as established in Title 5,
 7 section 3122," and inserting the following: 'Department of Health and Human Services'

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

9 '**Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 10 allocations are made.

11 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
 12 **Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143**

13 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Maine Center for Disease Control and
 14 Prevention to support federally qualified health centers in developing and expanding
 15 pharmacy services and access to affordably priced prescription drugs for the patients of
 16 such health centers.

17	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
18	All Other	\$0	\$7,500,000
19			
20	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$7,500,000</u>

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

22 Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Comprehensive Health Planner II position and
 23 one limited-period Management Analyst II position to administer the grants and monitor
 24 the finances of the program to support access to pharmacy services and affordably priced
 25 prescription drugs to residents of the State in rural and underserved communities through
 26 June 17, 2025.

27	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
28	Personal Services	\$0	\$208,549
29	All Other	\$0	\$13,074
30			
31	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$221,623</u>

33 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,**
 34 **DEPARTMENT OF**
 35 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

36		2023-24	2024-25
37	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$7,721,623
38			
39	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$7,721,623</u>

40 '
 41 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
 42 number to read consecutively.

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SUMMARY

This amendment transfers responsibility for administration and distribution of the grant program established in the bill from the Office of Affordable Health Care to the Department of Health and Human Services. The amendment also adds language directing the department to consider the availability of other pharmacy services in the areas served by a federally qualified health center applying for grant funding when making decisions to allocate funds to applicants.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)