

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN

—  
S.P. 655 - L.D. 1617

**An Act Regarding the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program**

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5107-A**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 596, Pt. B, §9 and affected by §25, is further amended by adding after the 2nd paragraph a new paragraph to read:

The ombudsman may provide advocacy during the hospital discharge process to assist patients with complex medical needs who experience significant barriers in accessing long-term services and supports. If the ombudsman provides advocacy, the ombudsman shall ensure that the patient has information regarding available options including, but not limited to: home and community-based services provided under MaineCare or funded by the State; admission to a residential care facility as defined in section 7852, subsection 14 and licensed according to section 7801; admission to a nursing facility licensed according to section 1817; and admission to an assisted living facility or program licensed pursuant to chapter 1663 or 1664. The ombudsman also may provide assistance to the patient after discharge from the hospital.

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

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

**Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office 0140**

Initiative: Provides funds to contract for 2 additional positions in the long-term care ombudsman program to provide information on options and assist patients with complex medical needs with overcoming barriers to admission in a residential care facility, nursing facility or assisted living facility or program and provide services to facilities subsequent to placement of patients with complex medical needs.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
All Other	\$0	\$150,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$150,000