



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

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No. 659

H.P. 428

House of Representatives, February 16, 2023

**An Act to Promote Seamless and Flexible Home and Community
Supports Across the Lifespan for Individuals with Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities or Autism**

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CROCKETT of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. Home and community-based lifespan program.** The Department of
3 Health and Human Services shall adopt routine technical rules pursuant to the Maine
4 Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A establishing a MaineCare home and
5 community-based lifespan program for individuals with intellectual and developmental
6 disabilities, autism or other related conditions, referred to in this Act as "the lifespan
7 program." On or after January 1, 2025, the department may begin enrollment in the lifespan
8 program. The department may seek waivers or other approvals from the federal
9 Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
10 to implement the lifespan program. The goals of the lifespan program are to:

11 **1. Flexibility across the lifespan.** Provide home and community-based supports that
12 can change over the member's lifespan as a member as described in this section and the
13 persons who provide support to that member get older, without needing to move from one
14 waiver program to another;

15 **2. Seamless transitions.** Expand upon the department's current childhood-to-
16 adulthood transition initiatives by including children beginning at 14 years of age and
17 enable smooth transitions at later life stages;

18 **3. Early planning for independence.** Emphasize in-home supports, independent
19 living skills and employment services for youth to prepare them for as much independence
20 as possible in adulthood;

21 **4. Innovation.** Include service innovations currently under development, such as tiered
22 shared living, standardized assessment of need, enhanced medical and behavioral health
23 supports, self-direction, innovative employment supports, independent living options and
24 remote support technology, including models of support that can be successfully
25 implemented with a smaller workforce; and

26 **5. Simplified and effective payment methods.** Include alternative payment methods
27 to promote quality and efficiency and reduce the administrative burden for service
28 providers and the department.

29 **Sec. 2. Relationship to existing programs.** The Department of Health and
30 Human Services shall implement the lifespan program in 2 phases. The target group for
31 phase 1 of the lifespan program includes adults who would qualify for home and
32 community-based services programs under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual,
33 Chapter II, Section 21 or 29 and children beginning at 14 years of age who would meet all
34 other eligibility criteria for Section 21 or 29 except age. The target group for phase 2 of
35 the lifespan program may include adults who would qualify for home and community-
36 based services programs under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II,
37 Section 20 and children beginning at 14 years of age who would meet all other eligibility
38 criteria for Section 20 except age. When the lifespan program opens for phase 1
39 enrollment, new enrollment under Sections 21 and 29 will be closed. Members who are
40 enrolled under Section 21 or 29 when enrollment is closed have the option of continuing in
41 their current program or applying for enrollment in the lifespan program during phase 2.
42 Individuals who are on a waiting list for enrollment under Section 21 or 29 when the
43 lifespan program opens will be transferred to the lifespan program waiting list.

