



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 592

H.P. 435

House of Representatives, February 24, 2021

**An Act To Ensure Access to Outpatient Mental Health Services by
Increasing Reimbursement for Outpatient Therapists**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 22, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, MADIGAN of Waterville, STOVER of Boothbay.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** outpatient mental health services are an important service for an
4 individual's overall health and well-being; and

5 **Whereas,** rates of reimbursement for services create barriers to the abundance of
6 services provided; and

7 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
8 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
9 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
10 therefore,

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

12 **Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to increase MaineCare**
13 **rates.** No later than July 1, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services shall
14 amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65,
15 Behavioral Health Services, Outpatient Therapy-Individual/Family and Outpatient
16 Therapy-Group, to increase reimbursement rates by 25%.

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

19 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

20 **Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147**

21 Initiative: Provides funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to amend
22 its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 65, Behavioral
23 Health Services, Outpatient Therapy-Individual/Family and Outpatient Therapy-Group, to
24 increase reimbursement rates by 25%.

25 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
26 All Other	\$4,232,234	\$4,223,143
27		
28 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$4,232,234</u>	<u>\$4,223,143</u>

30 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2021-22	2022-23
31 All Other	\$7,498,718	\$7,507,809
32		
33 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$7,498,718</u>	<u>\$7,507,809</u>

34 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
35 takes effect when approved.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to increase
38 reimbursement rates in its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III,
39 Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, Outpatient Therapy-Individual/Family and
40 Outpatient Therapy-Group, by 25% no later than July 1, 2021.