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Commissioner



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March 28, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 814 – *An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information neither for nor against LD 814, *An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults*.

This bill amends current state statutes regarding services for older adults to specifically list case management and navigation services. It also increases ongoing state appropriations by \$9.75 million annually for all services offered by Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) across Maine.

The Department agrees that older Mainers and their family caregivers have unmet needs, as described in the [Maine State Plan on Aging Needs Assessment](#). However, the Department cannot verify the origin or calculation of the amount included in this bill. The Department currently awards \$12,129,763 in ongoing funds (\$7,069,218 federal and \$5,060,545 state) to support the programs and services managed by the AAAs. This includes the recent increases in ongoing state funding proposed by Governor Mills and approved by the 131st Legislature for home-delivered meals (\$2,649,301 per year) and information and assistance services (\$500,000 per year).

The Department views the proposed statutory changes in this bill as unnecessary, given that they are duplicative of existing federal regulations under the Older Americans Act that govern activities of AAAs (see 42 U.S.C., Ch. 35, §3030d(a)(5)(A)). Should the Legislature approve this bill, any inconsistencies between federal and state definitions for these services is likely to increase administrative burden for the Department and AAAs by leading to parallel programs, each with its own requirements and reporting, for services that are very similar.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul Saucier".

Paul Saucier, Director
Office of Aging and Disability Services
Maine Department of Health and Human Services