

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



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April 3, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Chair
Representative Noonan-Murphy, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1123 – *An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools*

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan-Murphy and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide information neither for nor against LD 1123, *An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools*.

This bill provides ongoing funds to establish two Public Service Coordinator I positions to provide technical assistance and facilitate MaineCare reimbursements for local school districts.

The Department of Health and Human Services (the “Department”) supports the addition of staff to facilitate the ongoing collaboration between the Office of MaineCare Services and the Maine Department of Education (DoE) and our joint efforts to improve access to needed services for children as well as to ensure appropriate billing for MaineCare covered services.

If the bill progresses, the Department recommends clarification of the roles and responsibilities of these positions at DoE relative to positions and responsibilities of the Department to ensure coordination of activities and efforts across the two agencies. Relatedly, if these positions required access to the MaineCare billing and claims system (MIHMS) or required technical expertise in MaineCare claims payment or other areas that are the Department’s responsibility or specialty, the Department would propose establishing one of these positions within the Office of MaineCare Services where the access and knowledge and related technical supports already reside.

The Department also suggests further consideration of the type of staff (classification) assigned to these positions. Based on the language of the bill, a Public Service Coordinator may be a more senior classification than is appropriate to accomplish the desired tasks.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Probert", is written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Probert
Director
Office of MaineCare Services
Maine Department of Health and Human Services