



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
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April 9, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Senate Chair
Representative Murphy, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

LD 1123, An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools, would provide funding to the Maine Department of Education (DOE) to establish two Public Service Coordinator I positions to provide technical assistance support to Maine school administrative units (SAUs) to facilitate MaineCare reimbursements. The Department of Education appreciates the intent of the bill and agrees that this is an appropriate solution to the issue at hand.

As discussed in the Maine Policy Research Institute's presentation on 3/26/2025, many SAUs are currently unable to fully utilize available MaineCare funds to support the funding of special education students, even when those students are utilizing MaineCare-eligible services. School personnel report that MaineCare billing can be technically challenging, with stringent accountability measures which creates hesitancy among Maine SAUs in pursuing these funds. This bill would enable Maine's SAUs to leverage medical funds for medical services that are delivered in schools, thereby preserving education funding for educational services.

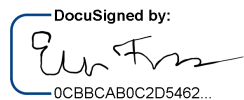
By creating these positions, SAUs would be provided with a centralized resource to help them more effectively bill MaineCare for medical expenses that are needed by students within their schools. Explicit points of contact for MaineCare billing support will allow professionals familiar with the needs and programs in schools to address MaineCare related questions to be addressed in concert with experts from the Office of MaineCare Services. Such positions are in line with the Department's own strategic thinking about expanding MaineCare billing in schools.

We are confident in the success of cross-differential collaboration required of these positions. Nonetheless, we recommend clarification of the roles and responsibilities of both the DOE and Department of Health and Human Services to ensure immediate efficacy of the coordination of activities and efforts across the two agencies. We also suggest 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 required to accomplish the desired tasks.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on LD 1123 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Erin Frazier

Director of Special Services and Inclusive Education

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