

LD 1345, "Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Timely Provide Interim Settlement Payments to Long-term Care Facilities"

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
April 14, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am Trey Stewart; and I represent Senate District 2, which includes several communities in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. I am here to present LD 1345, "Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Timely Provide Interim Settlement Payments to Long-term Care Facilities."

This bill builds upon the important work completed during the 131st Legislature with the passage of LD 1474. That bipartisan Resolve, which was unanimously approved by this Committee and the full Legislature, was intended to ensure that long-term care providers would not have to wait years for audit processes to wrap up before receiving a substantial portion of the Medicaid funding they are owed. That bill directed the Department of Health and Human Services to issue interim payments based on submitted cost reports, improving predictability and stability for providers during a period of serious financial strain.

We've seen that approach begin to work. But, like many pieces of well-intentioned legislation, the rollout has revealed areas that need clarification. Maine Health Care Association is here and will elaborate on the needed updates.

What LD 1345 does not do is create new spending. The 2023 bill has been successfully implemented without additional cost, and so should this bill. This is not a request for new appropriations or expanded benefits. It simply ensures that providers are paid a timely portion of what they are already owed. That's it. For these reasons, I do not believe this bill can be construed as an extra cost to the state.

We are all aware of the pressure facing long-term care in Maine. LD 1345 offers a practical, no-cost way to improve cash flow for these essential providers and strengthen their ability to stay open and serve their communities.

Thank you for your time and attention.