

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 6

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LD1989 – An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. As you know, I am Senator Marianne Moore, and I am here to present LD 1989, *An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund*.

I have sponsored this bill on behalf of the Department and was happy to do so because it will help ensure providers and other entities can effectively access and utilize the Progressive Treatment Program (PTP) Fund dollars.

The Department will follow my testimony and provide additional details about the program and the legislation. As a reminder, the PTP is a program for individuals with serious mental illness who pose a likelihood of serious harm to themselves and are unlikely to follow a treatment plan voluntarily. Although the Program is court-ordered, individuals who participate have the benefit of a suitable individualized treatment plan supported by licensed and qualified community providers.

Current law only allows for reimbursement of private entities to initiate such programs. This bill would allow mental health care providers to request reimbursement from DHHS for both the initiation and renewal of PTP, subject to available funds. It would also remove the maximum reimbursement amount, which is currently set at \$800. These changes, proposed by the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), are responsive to feedback they have received from several providers and other entities, and will help improve the utilization of PTP in Maine. I hope you will join me in supporting this legislation.

Thank you! I do ask you to hold your questions for the Department. 😊

LD 1989
**An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment
Program Fund**

Words in **Bold** are the revisions asked for by the Brett M. Staples Brain Disorder Coalition. This aligns with the PTP law Title 34B, §3873-A.

Emergency Preamble

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

2 Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3873-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 745, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 2. Application of fund. The department shall use the money in the fund to
reimburse
5 the legal costs incurred by mental health care providers to initiate or renew
6 existing progressive treatment programs in accordance with section 3873-A. A
7. **Law Enforcement, legal guardian's legal council, or mental health care**
provider seeking reimbursement must submit to the department
8 an itemized bill of legal costs incurred to initiate the or renew a progressive
treatment
9 program.

10 The department may

11 reimburse **Law Enforcement, legal guardian's legal council, or mental**
health care providers for the legal costs to initiate or renew a progressive
12 treatment program **up to \$3,500.00 per initiation or renewal** subject to
available funds.

13 SUMMARY

14 This bill allows **Law Enforcement, legal guardian's legal council, or mental**
health care providers to request reimbursement from the
15 Department of Health and Human Services for both the initiation and renewal
of

16 progressive treatment programs **up to \$3,500.00 per initiation or renewal**,
subject to available funds. Current law allows for
17 reimbursement to private entities to initiate such programs.