

LD 1045, An Act To Support Universal Health Care

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes the Maine Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all residents of this State. The bill is modeled on proposed legislation considered in Minnesota.

The bill establishes the Maine Health Care Board to administer the Maine Health Care Plan and requires the board to develop a financing structure and to submit requests for necessary waivers or repeals of federal law. The bill requires the plan to be operational by January 1, 2024.

TESTIMONY: Written testimony can be found at this [link](#)

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ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Consider whether State can move forward without changes in federal law or waivers? As drafted, the bill directs Governor, state officials and board to apply for necessary repeals or waivers in federal law.
2. Consider funding needed to establish and implement the plan? As drafted, the bill requires board to submit financing plan by January 1, 2022 and for plan to be operational by January 1, 2024.
3. LD 1608, An Act To Expand the MaineCare Program To Cover All Citizens of the State, is being consider by HHS Committee. LD 1608 establishes a single-payer health care program in the State that provides health care services for Maine residents. The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to consult with the Department of Labor and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to develop the program. The bill requires the State to implement the program in 4 phases, based on income, beginning in 2023 for those residents not already eligible for the MaineCare program. The bill also creates the MaineCare for All Implementation Task Force to advise the departments and make recommendations to fully implement the single-payer health care program. The program may not be implemented in 2023 without prior legislative approval.

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ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION (cont'd):

4. Proposed federal legislation called the State-based Universal Coverage Act expected to be introduced in Congress. The proposed legislation would establish a new federal waiver to states to provide federal funding and regulatory waivers to develop universal coverage programs. It was first introduced as [H.R. 5010](#) in 116th Congress.

FISCAL INFORMATION:

Not yet determined