

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: May 12, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Erin Dooling, Esq., Legislative Analyst

LD 745 An Act To Strengthen Maine's Public Health by Expanding Access to Certain Health Programs and Services

SUMMARY: This bill is a concept draft. Prior to the public hearing the sponsor proposed language amending the [Universal Childhood Immunization Program](#) in the following ways as of September 2022:

- Changes the name from the Universal Childhood Immunization Program to the Universal Immunization Program
- Increases the scope of the program from all children from birth until 19 years to all persons receiving healthcare in the State
- Defines adult to mean a person 19-64 years of age
- Changes the frequency of Maine Vaccine Board meetings from 4x/year to not less than 2x/year
- Amends current provisions about assessments on health insurance carriers or third-party administrators under the program

ISSUES FROM TESTIMONY:

- *Maine Public Health Association:*
 - Which vaccines will be covered?
 - What is the timeline for implementation?
- *Maine Immunization Coalition:*
 - Clarify the assessment methodology

- How will uninsured adults be paid for?
- *Maine Association of Health Plans:*
 - How will initiatives work with flu and COVID vaccination efforts?
 - Which vaccines will be covered?
 - What is the volume of vaccines?
 - What are the expected costs?
 - Where do adults get vaccinations? How will that work with large scale vaccinators?
 - What is the difference between reserves, service fee and unexpended expenses? How do they interact? How are they determined and calculated. How are they charged? What is the total assessment amount?
 - Are carriers expected to pay one assessment for the whole program or one for adults and one for children?
 - Who pays for uninsured adults?

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS:

- *Maine Association of Health Plans:* Ask the Maine Vaccine Board to look further into the issues and come back with an analysis and possibly a proposal for the Committee's review.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE:

- Requested that DHHS, CDC and Honorable Gary Connor be present at the work session

FISCAL IMPACT: Not yet determined