

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: May 18, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Anna Broome, Legislative Analyst

LD 1608 An Act To Expand the MaineCare Program To Cover All Citizens of the State

SUMMARY: This bill 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 design the program to provide coverage for health care services from participating providers within the State if those services are necessary or appropriate for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation after injury, disability or disease. It establishes minimum services.

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 first phase is convening a committee for an RFP, study of costs, benefits and issues, and any federal waivers. Any waivers must be applied for by June 30, 2023. The first phase is those <200% of FPL not eligible for MaineCare. The second phase is 200-400% FPL. The third phase is >400% FPL.

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 Task Force is made up of 10 legislators and is staffed by the Legislative Council. It may include consultants representing hospitals, providers, consumers, small and large employers.

The program may not be implemented in 2023 without prior legislative approval.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- [LD 1045](#), An Act To Support Universal Health Care. HCIFS has a work session 5/18.
- Information from other states – forwarded separately from Reps. Arford and Sylvester
- Similar to [LD 1617](#) in the 129th (HCIFS)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not yet received from OFPR.