



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

3 July 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 401, "An Act To Require Reimbursement to Hospitals for Patients Awaiting Placement in Nursing Facilities."


This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse hospitals in a manner that is not consistent with their real-time reimbursement system that exists today. Acute-care hospitals are reimbursed under a Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) methodology, which pays hospitals in real-time for services rendered versus the old methodology of prospective payments and final cost settlements.

Under DRG methodology, days awaiting placement has been accounted for in the calculation of the reimbursement under each service grouping. Additionally, an outlier payment adjustment is made to the rate when an unusually high level of resources has been expended for a case, such as when a member is waiting for placement in a nursing facility for an extended period of time.

The responsibility for appropriate and safe discharge of an individual is the responsibility of the hospital. Discharge planners are required to assess the appropriate level of care required, to actively pursue the establishment of services and to secure appropriate placements.

For this reason, I return LD 401 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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