



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

2 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 1133, "An Act Regarding Access to Appropriate Residential Services for Individuals Being Discharged from Psychiatric Hospitalization."

This bill authorizes a residential service provider to apply to the Department of Health and Human Services for temporary services in order to meet the needs of patients that are ready for discharge from psychiatric hospitalization, but need reasonable accommodations or a higher level of care. The bill also states that if those services are reimbursable by the MaineCare program, the provider must seek MaineCare reimbursement first and directs the Department to provide technical assistance.

This bill is completely unnecessary for three reasons. First, existing MaineCare policy provides for a rate increase for instances in which reasonable accommodation or a higher level of care is necessary. It is unclear whether the intent of the bill is to supplement the existing increase.

Second, it is also existing policy that if a service is eligible for reimbursement under MaineCare, then MaineCare shall be billed instead of paying for that service with General Funds. This already accomplishes the MaineCare reimbursement component of the bill.

Third, the Department already provides technical assistance to providers regarding MaineCare billing and other issues with which the provider may need support.

Another state law simply reiterating current policy and practice is duplicative and superfluous. For these reasons, I return LD 1133 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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