

**Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**  
**131st Legislature First Regular and First Special Session**  
**Brief Summary of Enacted Laws**

<b>LD</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Law/Resolve</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
36	An Act to Make Corrections to the Maine Insurance Code	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 59	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 59 makes the following amendments to the Maine Insurance Code.</p> <p>It requires licensees under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A and Title 24 to respond to all inquiries of the superintendent within 10 business days of receipt of the inquiry. It also requires licensees to respond to follow-up inquiries within 5 business days. Current law requires licensees under Title 24-A to respond to inquiries that relate to resolution of consumer complaints involving the licensee within the 14-day time frame and to all other inquiries within 30 days.</p> <p>It clarifies the laws governing domestic insurer investments concerning investments in stocks of subsidiaries. It clarifies that domestic insurance companies are required to get prior approval of the Superintendent of Insurance before investing in stocks of subsidiaries unless, with respect to investments in subsidiaries engaged in the same kinds of business as the insurance company, the investments would not result in the aggregate net cost of the insurer's investments in all such subsidiaries exceeding 50% of its surplus to policyholders.</p> <p>It removes the prohibition on members of the Continuing Education Advisory Committee being reappointed and allows the Superintendent of Insurance to remove a member of the committee for cause.</p> <p>It removes from the small and large group health insurance rating laws obsolete references to the Dirigo Health savings offset payments program.</p> <p>It makes other technical corrections.</p>
97	An Act to Repeal the Hospital and Health Care Provider Cooperation Act	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 37	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 37 repeals the Hospital and Health Care Provider Cooperation Act, which provides state action immunity under applicable federal antitrust laws through a process for state review and approval of agreements between hospitals and other health care providers that will facilitate cost containment, improve quality of care and increase access to health care services.</p>
114	An Act to Make Technical Amendments to Banking Laws	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 30	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 30 makes the following amendments to the Maine Banking Code.</p> <p>It provides the Superintendent of Financial Institutions with the authority to reduce assessments by rule or order. Current law only allows the Bureau of Financial Institutions to raise assessments.</p> <p>It clarifies that the superintendent may suspend or postpone action on an application submitted to the bureau in the event that the bureau has no present capacity to supervise the applicant based on a lack of personnel or tools to</p>

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			<p>adequately supervise certain emerging business models in a manner that protects the public and ensures the safety and soundness of the institution.</p> <p>It amends the processes for liquidations of financial institutions to provide that, like standard mergers, fiduciary accounts are automatically transferred to the surviving institution in the event of a merger conducted as part of a liquidation, thus removing the need for such accounts to be transferred by court processes or obtaining consent of account beneficiaries.</p> <p>It clarifies that an uninsured bank must be engaged in the business of banking in order to be organized under the laws governing investor-owned institutions.</p> <p>It eliminates the requirement in current law that all financial institutions must post a copy of their financial statements in their offices. Instead, it requires a federally insured financial institution to post a notice in its main office that this information is available to the public upon request, except that limited purpose banks must continue to post a copy of their financial statements in their offices.</p>
121	An Act to Expand Health Insurance Coverage to Certain State Employees	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 451	Beginning November 1, 2023, Public Law 2021, chapter 451 requires the State to pay its share of the individual premium for the state employee health insurance plan for a session-only employee of the Legislature regardless of whether the employee is in active work status unless the session-only employee has health coverage under another plan. The law also clarifies that the payment of premiums is not intended to provide an incentive for employees to artificially delay notice of resignation.
224	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Health Care Workforce by Preventing Discrimination by Requiring Maintenance of Certification for Insurance Reimbursement	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 40; Letter to Assn of Specialty Boards	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 40 prohibits health insurance carriers from conditioning reimbursement, provider network or credentialing status for a physician, hospital or outpatient clinical practice on a physician's, hospital's or outpatient clinical practice's participation in a maintenance of certification program.</p> <p>Public Law 2023, chapter 40 repeals the law's requirements on April 1, 2029.</p>

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263	An Act to Ensure Access to Family Planning Services	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 343	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 343 makes changes to the certificate of need process used by Department of Health and Human Services when reviewing any transfer of ownership or control of a health care facility or any new health care facility.</p> <p>It provides that the Commissioner of Health and Human Services may approve the transaction only if the commissioner determines that the project will not reduce access to any family planning services, including abortion care, except that the commissioner may approve a project on the basis that the project is only economically and financially feasible if an obstetrical care service is closed or reduced in capacity and, after considering all reasonable alternatives, that access to other health care services will be substantially reduced if the project is not approved.</p> <p>It requires that the written health impact assessment submitted by the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention must include without limitation an assessment of the impact on access to family planning services, including abortion care.</p> <p>It authorizes the commissioner to review and enforce compliance with the approval criterion regarding access to any family planning services even after the 3-year time frame for other subsequent reviews has expired.</p>
267	An Act to Require Private Insurance Coverage for Donor Breast Milk	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 229	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 229 requires state-regulated health insurance plans to provide coverage for donor breast milk for an infant covered under the health plan if a licensed physician, physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse signs an order stating that the infant is medically or physically unable to receive maternal breast milk or participate in breastfeeding or the infant's parent is medically or physically unable to produce maternal breast milk in quantities sufficient for the infant and the infant has a serious medical condition for which donor breast milk is medically necessary.</p> <p>The requirements apply to individual and group health insurance plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2024.</p>
308	An Act to Require That Insurance Companies Notify Insured Persons over 65 Years of Age Regarding Coordination of Benefits with Medicare Part B	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 104	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 104 requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to approve the notice provided by an insurer that coordinates benefits with Medicare Part B coverage. The law also requires that the notice include a statement that the insured person may contact the bureau, the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, section 4326 or another relevant organization or agency for assistance in understanding coordination of benefits with Medicare Part B under the insured person's contract.</p>

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351	An Act to Increase Access to Birth Control by Making Certain Contraception Accessible from a Pharmacist	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 115	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 115 authorizes pharmacists to prescribe, dispense and administer contraceptives in accordance with the following.</p> <p>It permits a pharmacist to issue prescriptions for self-administered hormonal contraceptives, including oral hormonal contraceptive pills, vaginal rings and hormonal contraceptive patches, and injectable hormonal contraceptives.</p> <p>It requires a pharmacist to complete a training program approved by the Maine Board of Pharmacy that reflects evidence-based medical eligibility guidelines for contraceptive use.</p> <p>It requires a pharmacist to obtain a completed self-screening risk assessment from a patient prior to issuing a prescription.</p> <p>It requires a pharmacist to refer a patient to the patient's practitioner upon prescribing and, if the patient does not have a practitioner, to advise the patient to consult a practitioner. "Practitioner" is defined in the Maine Pharmacy Act as an individual who is licensed, registered or otherwise authorized to prescribe and administer drugs in the course of professional practice.</p> <p>It requires a pharmacist to provide a patient with a written record of a prescribed contraceptive.</p> <p>It requires the Maine Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules to further implement the law's provisions.</p>
362	An Act to Clarify Coverage for Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Under the State Employer Group Health Plan	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 20 (effective June 29, 2023)	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 20 clarifies that a retired county or municipal law enforcement officer or retired municipal firefighter is eligible to enroll in the group health plan offered to state employees if the officer or firefighter meets the requirements for the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program.</p>
375	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 570: Uniform	Emergency Finally Passed as Resolve 2023, chapter 7;	<p>Resolve 2023, chapter 7 authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 570: Uniform Reporting System for Prescription Drug Price Data Sets, a major substantive rule of the Maine Health Data Organization.</p> <p>Resolve 2023, chapter 7 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 21, 2023.</p>

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	Reporting System for Prescription Drug Price Data Sets, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization	effective April 21, 2023	
553	An Act to Require Mortgage Holders to Notify a Homeowner's Insurance Company on the Sale or Transfer of a Mortgage	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 69	When the creditor, assignee or servicer of a mortgage on a residential property controls funds of a consumer in an escrow account for the payment of insurance premiums, Public Law 2023, chapter 69 requires the creditor, assignee or servicer of the mortgage to notify the insurer of the property if the mortgage is sold or transferred.
616	An Act to Protect Health Care Professionals Providing Reproductive Health Care Services	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 345	Public Law 2023, chapter 345 prohibits an insurer that provides medical malpractice insurance in this State from discriminating or taking any adverse action against a health care professional who provides abortion or other reproductive health care services on the sole basis that the health care professional is acting in violation of another state's law or is subject to an adverse action against the health care professional's license in another state.
637	An Act to Promote the Use of Free Annual Wellness Visits by Ensuring Proper Disclosure	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 80	Public Law 2023, chapter 80 requires health care providers and health insurance carriers to provide notice about services included in annual wellness visits and that some services performed during a wellness visit and services related to a specific health condition may have an out-of-pocket cost. The requirements for health insurance carriers apply beginning January 1, 2024.
717	An Act to Adopt the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 310	Public Law 2023, chapter 310 enacts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, an interstate compact designed to facilitate the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology across state boundaries to improve access to these services where the patient is located at the time of the encounter and to provide for the mutual recognition of licenses from other states that are members of the interstate compact.
722	An Act to Expedite the Health Insurance Referral Process for	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 119	Public Law 2023, chapter 119 prohibits a health insurance carrier from denying payment for any behavioral health care service or physical therapy service covered under an enrollee's health plan based solely on the basis that the enrollee's referral was not made by the enrollee's primary care provider as long as the enrollee's referral is made by a

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	Specialists by Allowing Referrals During Urgent Care Visits		provider during an urgent care visit and the provider notifies the enrollee's primary care provider of the referral. The requirements apply beginning January 1, 2024.
752	An Act to Expand Access to Banking Services for Minors	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 42	Public Law 2023, chapter 42 provides that a minor is deemed to be of legal age and capacity and the account owner with respect to a bank account established at a bank or credit union authorized to do business in this State for all transactions with respect to a minor's account that does not have a joint owner of majority age. The law authorizes a minor to endorse and deposit to the credit of the minor's account checks and other instruments for the payment of money.
789	An Act Regarding Dental Licensure for Charitable Care	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 165; Letter to Board of Dental Practice	Public Law 2023, chapter 165 authorizes the Board of Dental Practice to waive the fee for a temporary license if the purpose of the temporary license is to offer free dental care in conjunction with a charitable nonprofit organization.
844	An Act to Protect the Practice of Certain Cardiovascular Professionals	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 100	Public Law 2023, chapter 100 exempts a credentialed cardiovascular technologist from licensure under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 103, the Medical Radiation Health and Safety Act, when the cardiovascular technologist is performing certain activities and acting under the delegated authority and direct supervision of a physician while the physician is performing cardiac catheterization or electrophysiology procedures.
899	An Act to Authorize Vaccine Administration by Pharmacy Technicians and Reduce Vaccine Administration Training Requirements for Pharmacists	Emergency Enacted; Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 245; effective June 22, 2023	Public Law 2023, chapter 245 authorizes pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines under the direct supervision of a pharmacist if they have met certain specified training requirements and have been issued a certification of administration by the Maine Board of Pharmacy.  The law also clarifies the timing of when drug or vaccine administration training requirements must be completed by pharmacists.

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914	An Act to Amend the Duties of the Office of Affordable Health Care	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 94	Public Law 2023, chapter 94 directs the Office of Affordable Health Care to consider the impact of emerging technology in health care treatment when analyzing health care spending trends.
935	An Act to Remove Barriers to Abortion Coverage in Private Insurance	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 347	Public Law 2023, chapter 347 prohibits an individual or group health insurance plan with an effective date on or after January 1, 2024 from imposing any deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement for the costs of abortion services, except that the prohibition on cost-sharing requirements for the costs of abortion services does not apply to a health plan offered for use with a health savings account unless the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that the benefits are permissible in a high deductible health plan.
937	Resolve, to Establish the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine	Emergency Finally Passed; Finally Passed as Resolve 2023, chapter 93; effective July 7, 2023	<p>Resolve 2023, chapter 93 creates the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to study integrating foreign-trained physicians living in the State into the health care workforce to best reflect their level of skills and training, with a focus on those who are here as refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>The resolve requires the commission to submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than January 15, 2024. The joint standing committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based on the report.</p> <p>Resolve 2023, chapter 93 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective July 7, 2023.</p>
995	An Act to Enhance Access to a Second Opinion for Health Care Services or Treatment	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 348	Public Law 2023, chapter 348 provides that an enrollee in a health plan may not be required to obtain a 2nd opinion from a provider that practices in the same office location as the enrollee's provider. The law also requires that, if the 2nd opinion is obtained from an out-of-network provider, a health insurance carrier may not apply a deductible, coinsurance or copayment for the 2nd opinion in an amount greater than the deductible, coinsurance or copayment that would apply to the same health care service if the service were obtained from a network provider, and the amount of any coinsurance or copayment must be applied to the enrollee's in-network deductible. The requirements apply to individual and group health plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2024.
1080	An Act to Require Supervised Lenders or Mortgage Loan Servicers to Notify Private Mortgage	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 258	Public Law 2023, chapter 258 codifies in state law the annual disclosure requirement related to private mortgage insurance under the federal Homeowners Protection Act of 1998.

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	Insurance Consumers of Their Rights Under the Federal Homeowners Protection Act of 1998		
1082	An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 167	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 167 makes the following changes to the Maine Retirement Savings Program.</p> <p>It provides that the program may establish a name other than the Maine Retirement Savings Program for the operation of the program.</p> <p>It establishes that the Maine Retirement Savings Board must meet as established by policy of the board, but no less than quarterly.</p> <p>It increases the maximum amount that employees may contribute to the program from 8% to 10% of salary or wages per year.</p> <p>It amends the laws governing the program to postpone the dates by which covered employers are required to participate in the program and similarly postpones the dates when the board may begin assessing penalties to covered employers who fail to participate.</p> <p>It identifies the board as a body corporate and politic and a public instrumentality of the State.</p> <p>It specifies that covered employers are deemed to have reasonable notice of the need to participate in the program after the program has communicated the need to participate 3 times.</p> <p>It authorizes the board to enter into an intergovernmental agreement or memorandum of understanding with the State and any agency or instrumentality of the State in order to further the successful implementation and operation of the program.</p> <p>It clarifies that the funds transferred from the State in the enabling legislation are not an appropriation subject to repayment.</p> <p>It authorizes employees of the board to participate in the state health insurance plan.</p>



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			It authorizes employees of the board to participate in the defined contribution plans offered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System without requiring participation in the defined benefit plan offered by the retirement system.
1085	An Act to Extend the Comparable Health Care Service Incentive Program Beyond 2023	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 224	Public Law 2023, chapter 224 continues the comparable health care service incentive program by eliminating its January 1, 2024 repeal date.
1105	An Act to Ensure Lower Costs and Consumer Protections for Patients by Prohibiting Certain Billing Practices	Enacted without Governor's Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 382	Public Law 2023, chapter 382 prohibits a health insurance carrier from prohibiting a health care provider from providing an enrollee with the option of paying the provider's discounted cash price for health care services.
1151	An Act Concerning the Authority for Pharmacists to Administer Vaccines	Emergency Enacted; Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 170; effective June 15, 2023	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 170 makes the following changes concerning the authority for pharmacists to administer vaccines.</p> <p>It changes the age of a person to whom a pharmacist may administer influenza vaccines without a prescription from a person 7 years of age or older to a person 3 years of age or older.</p> <p>It authorizes a pharmacist to administer vaccines recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to a person 18 years of age or older without a prescription and to a person 3 years of age or older and under 18 years of age with a prescription. Under current law, a pharmacist may administer other vaccines to a person 18 years of age or older with a prescription that states the vaccine is medically necessary.</p> <p>It requires a pharmacist to provide a written immunization record to the person immunized and to notify the person's primary care provider within 72 hours. Beginning August 1, 2023, the law also requires a pharmacist to notify the state immunization reporting system within 72 hours of administering a vaccine.</p> <p>Public Law 2023, chapter 170 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 15, 2023.</p>

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1244	An Act to Define Undisputed Health Insurance Claims	Enacted without Governor's Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 332	Public Law 2023, chapter 332 adds a definition of "undisputed claim" as it relates to claims submitted by health care providers and health care facilities to health insurance carriers. Under the law, "undisputed claim" means a manually or electronically submitted claim from a health care provider or health care facility that contains all the required data elements necessary for accurate adjudication without the need for additional information; is not materially deficient or improper, including lacking substantiating documentation required by the carrier; and has no particular or unusual circumstances requiring special treatment that prevent payment from being made by the carrier.
1266	An Act to Clarify The Producer Licensure Required To Act As A Pet Insurance Producer	Enacted without Governor's Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 225	Public Law 2023, chapter 225 authorizes an insurance producer licensed in a property, accident and health or sickness or personal line of authority to sell, solicit and negotiate pet insurance.
1267	An Act to Provide Alternative Methods Of Payment To Health Care Provider	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 232	Under current federal regulations, health insurance carriers are required to process claims through electronic funds transfer if requested by a health care provider. Public Law 2023, chapter 232 codifies that requirement in state law for all insurance carriers potentially liable for payment of a claim submitted by a health care provider.
1271	An Act to Require A Disclaimer On Promotional Materials For Medicare, Medicaid And Mainecare Products By Private Entities	Enacted without Governor's Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 243	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 243 requires, on promotional material using the terms "Medicare," "Medicaid" or "MaineCare," prominent disclaimers stating the promotional material is an advertisement or solicitation by a private company that is not Medicare, Medicaid or MaineCare or any other governmental agency, and that these disclaimers and any other disclaimer on the material be in a large type size and distinctive type color. A disclaimer is not required on any informational brochure or other material distributed by a person that does not sell or profit from the sale of any insurance product. A violation of this requirement is an unfair trade practice subject to enforcement by the Attorney General.</p> <p>Public Law 2023, chapter 243 also requires the same disclaimer requirement on printed materials marketing Medicare products, except for informational brochures or other material developed or distributed by a state or federal regulatory agency or a nonprofit organization, or information related to an existing insurance policy. The requirement does not apply to marketing material that has been filed with and approved by the Superintendent of Insurance, or filed with and approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or filed with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under that agency's policies allowing for the filing and use of certain marketing materials. A violation of this requirement is an unfair trade practice under the Maine Insurance Code.</p>
1277	An Act to Amend The Laws Regarding Real Property	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 260	Public Law 2023, chapter 260 authorizes credit unions to invest in real property for a limited period of time to facilitate a member's acquisition, financing or refinancing of owner-occupied residential property consisting of not more than 4 dwelling units located in this State, unless prohibited by federal law.

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	Investment By Credit Unions		
1372	An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Self-insurance Laws to Allow for the Use of Fronting Companies	Enacted without Governor's Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 393	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 393 provides that an employer member of a group self-insurer licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A may insure its employees through a fronting arrangement beginning June 1, 2024 and until May 31, 2029. The law requires that the members of a group self-insurance reinsurance account have at least \$50,000,000 in net worth and provides that the assets of the members of the group self-insurance reinsurance account must be available to satisfy the obligations of a fronting company if the assets of the group self-insurer are inadequate to cover the obligations of the fronting company.</p> <p>Public Law 2023, chapter 393 clarifies that the requirements of Title 24-A and rules adopted under Title 24-A do not apply to a fronting company except to the extent that those provisions and rules are consistent with the requirements set forth in the law and any rules for fronting companies adopted by the Superintendent of Insurance pursuant to the amendment. No later than January 1, 2024, the Superintendent of Insurance must adopt provisionally adopt major substantive rules to implement the requirements.</p> <p>The law also provides that beginning June 1, 2029 a group self-insurer or group self-insurance reinsurance account may only administer and handle claims for an employer member through a fronting arrangement in place prior to June 1, 2029.</p>
1373	An Act to Allow Employers to Shop for Competitive Health Plan Options by Expanding the Disclosure of Health Claims Information	Enacted without Governor's Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 297	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 297 expands the scope of loss information that must be provided to an employer to facilitate the employer's shopping for group health insurance coverage, including disclosure of a minimum of 24 months of claims data, to the extent possible, including aggregate claims and loss ratio by month with the total medical and pharmacy claims provided separately and information related to high-cost claimants when there are more than 25 enrollees covered under the group policy.</p> <p>The law authorizes an insurer receiving an information request to transmit high-cost claimant data directly to another insurer or underwriter, or to a contractor or producer that has signed a business associate agreement that is in accordance with federal regulations, for the purpose of securing quotes, developing actuarial reports, facilitating claim management or other activities related to quoting or managing the group health plan sponsored by the requesting group policyholder.</p>
1383	An Act to Regulate Insurance Carrier Prior Authorization Requirements for	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 275	Public Law 2023, chapter 275 requires a health insurance carrier to provide clear written policies and procedures to health care providers and enrollees on how to obtain a prior authorization.

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	Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services		The law also prohibits a carrier from requiring prior authorization for rehabilitative or habilitative services, including, but not limited to, physical therapy services, occupational therapy services or chiropractic services, for the first 12 visits of each new episode of care. The prior authorization provision does not limit the right of a carrier to deny a claim when appropriate prospective or retrospective review concludes that services or treatment rendered were not medically necessary.
1395	An Act to Increase Transparency Regarding Certain Drug Pricing Programs	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 276	Public Law 2023, chapter 276 requires each hospital to provide an annual report to the Maine Health Data Organization with data related to its participation in the federal 340B drug pricing program consistent with the annual reporting of hospitals voluntarily participating in the good stewardship program of the American Hospital Association. The Maine Health Data Organization must post the annual reports on its publicly accessible website.
1396	An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Delegating Authority for Services Performed by Emergency Medical Services Personnel or Others as a Medical Assistant	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 132	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 132 makes the following changes to clarify the laws regarding the delegating authority of a physician or physician assistant to emergency medical services personnel or others as a medical assistant.</p> <p>It clarifies that a licensed emergency medical services person may not simultaneously act as an assistant performing medical services delegated by a physician or physician assistant.</p> <p>It adds cross-references clarifying the authority of a physician assistant to delegate medical services to a licensed emergency medical services person in a hospital or health care facility.</p> <p>It clarifies the laws regarding the delegating authority of a physician and a physician assistant.</p>
1400	An Act to Allow Certain Social Workers to Diagnose Organic Mental Illnesses	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 315	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 315 makes the following changes to the licensing provisions for social workers.</p> <p>It removes the prohibition on social workers' diagnosing organic mental illness to align Maine law with the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which now recognizes autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, intellectual disabilities and global developmental delay as organic mental illnesses. The ability to diagnose these mental illnesses is within the scope of practice for licensed clinical social workers.</p> <p>It removes the requirement that a social worker seek a physician's opinion in forming a psychosocial opinion.</p> <p>It repeals an outdated provision relating to the Volunteer Social Workers Project.</p>
1453	An Act to Amend the Physical Therapy Practice Laws	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 317	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 317 amends the laws governing the practice of physical therapy as follows.</p> <p>It includes the term "physiotherapy" in the definition of "physical therapy" and clarifies the definitions of "physical therapist," "physical therapist assistant," "practice of physical therapy" and "referral."</p>

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			<p>It amends the provisions of law governing physical therapy licensure to delineate authorized practices and limitations and referral requirements, including the conditions under which a physical therapist must refer a patient to an advanced practice registered nurse, certified nurse midwife, physician assistant, naturopathic doctor or a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry or chiropractic.</p> <p>It authorizes the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to determine the date of license renewal and requires the Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy to establish continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal.</p> <p>It requires the Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy to request a background check, including criminal history record information and fingerprints, for all persons who submit an application for initial licensure or licensure by endorsement. The law provides that the authority to request criminal history record information for an applicant for a license as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is contingent on approval and authorization from the federal Department of Justice.</p>
1581	An Act Regarding Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 354; Letter to Board of Dental Practice	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 354 makes the following changes to the laws related to the licensing and scope of practice of dental hygienists and dental therapists.</p> <p>It adds a definition of dental hygiene diagnosis.</p> <p>It removes general supervision from dental hygienists' and faculty dental hygienists' scope of practice.</p> <p>It changes the level of supervision from direct to general for dental hygienists who hold a local anesthesia practice authority.</p> <p>It aligns the scope of practice procedures to be consistent with current practices of dental hygienists, including the practice authorities governing independent practice dental hygienists, public health dental hygienists and dental therapists.</p> <p>It removes a written practice agreement requirement for dental hygienists who hold a public health dental hygienist practice authority.</p> <p>It changes the level of supervision from direct to general for the dental therapist practice authority.</p>

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<b>LD</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Law/Resolve</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
			It amends the life support certification for all individuals licensed by the Board of Dental Practice to be basic life support instead of cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification.
1602	An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board on Financial Health of Ambulance Services	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 468	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 468 makes the following statutory changes related to the financial health of ambulance services based on recommendations from a stakeholder group convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 241.</p> <p>It continues the requirement that health insurance carriers are required to pay specified reimbursement rates for covered services provided by an ambulance service provider and makes clear that carriers may not limit reimbursement to only covered emergency services.</p> <p>Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires health insurance carriers to reimburse ambulance service providers for nontransporting services at the same reimbursement rates for covered services.</p> <p>It prohibits health insurance carriers from requiring an ambulance services provider to obtain prior authorization before transporting an enrollee to a hospital, between hospitals or from a hospital to a nursing home, hospice care facility or other health care facility and requires carriers to reimburse for those services.</p> <p>It requires health insurance carriers to consider the requirements of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services related to medical necessity when establishing the carrier's own policies for medical necessity.</p> <p>It specifies the cost and performance metrics for the program for collecting and reporting cost and performance metrics related to emergency services that must be established by the Emergency Medical Services' Board in rule and adds 1 limited-period position to the Emergency Medical Services' Board to facilitate that program.</p> <p>It requires the Maine Health Data Organization to report information on payments for ambulance services on its publicly accessible website.</p>
1615	An Act Regarding Limits on Medication in Vending Machines	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 160	Public Law 2023, chapter 160 repeals the limitation that no more than 12 different nonprescription drugs may be dispensed by any single vending machine.
1661	An Act to Require a Liability Automobile	Enacted without Governor's	Public Law 2023, chapter 395 amends the minimum motor vehicle financial responsibility requirements to add a requirement for coverage of up to \$500 per accident for the reasonable towing and storage charges incurred as a result

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<b>LD</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Law/Resolve</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
	Insurance Policy to Cover the Costs of Towing and Storing Certain Vehicles	Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 395	<p>of an accident involving the insured vehicle if the vehicle is towed at the request of a law enforcement officer. The requirements apply to motor vehicle liability insurance policies beginning July 1, 2024.</p> <p>The law also requires the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance to evaluate the impact of the coverage required for towing and storage costs on premiums for motor vehicle liability insurance policies offered in this State. The bureau is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than February 1, 2024. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.</p>
1736	An Act to Advance the National HIV/AIDS Strategy in Maine by Broadening HIV Testing	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 281	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 281 requires a health care provider to include an HIV test in the standard set of medical tests performed on an individual with a possible sexually transmitted disease or infection.</p> <p>Effective January 1, 2026, Public Law 2023, chapter 329 enacts the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, which provides a mechanism to facilitate interstate practice by licensed professional physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in order to improve public access to professional physical therapy services.</p>
1749	An Act to Establish the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 329	Effective January 1, 2026, Public Law 2023, chapter 329 enacts the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, which provides a mechanism to facilitate interstate practice by licensed professional physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in order to improve public access to professional physical therapy services.
1795	An Act to Create Greater Transparency for Facility Fees Charged by Health Care Providers and to Establish the Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 410	<p>Public Law 2023, chapter 410 establishes the Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients.</p> <p>The law also requires the Maine Health Data Organization to annually report, beginning January 1, 2024, on payments made by payors in this State for facility fees charged by health care providers.</p>
1836	An Act Regarding Insurance Coverage for Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations	Enacted without Governor's Signature as Public Law 2023, chapter 338	Public Law 2023, chapter 338 provides that individual and group health insurance policies may not impose any cost-sharing requirements on a medically necessary diagnostic breast examination or supplemental breast examination performed by a health care provider. The requirements apply to insurance policies beginning on January 1, 2024.

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<b>LD</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Law/Resolve</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
			The law clarifies that the prohibition on cost-sharing requirements for the costs of screening mammograms, diagnostic breast examinations or supplemental breast examinations does not apply to a health plan offered for use with a health savings account unless the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that the benefits required by the bill are permissible in a high deductible health plan.
1856	Resolve, to Study the Establishment of a Public Option Health Benefit Plan	Finally Passed without Governor's Signature as Resolve 2023, chapter 87	<p>Pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 518, the Office of Affordable Health Care is required to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2024 on the effects of policies aimed at improving health care affordability and coverage and the effects of the policies on enrollment in comprehensive health coverage, including consideration of a public option health benefit plan. Resolve 2023, chapter 87 requires the office to prioritize studying the creation of a public option health benefit plan that takes the form of a fully publicly administered plan eligible for advanced premium tax credits through the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace or a buy-in to the MaineCare program and to consider other models to address the availability and affordability of health coverage in the State and ways that the State may leverage federal-state innovation waivers to improve affordability for consumers.</p> <p>Resolve 2023, chapter 87 also provides for phased-in submission of the report by requiring the office to submit a report that prioritizes the consideration of a public option health benefit plan to the Legislature no later than January 31, 2024 and to submit a final report fulfilling the remaining requirements in Public Law 2021, chapter 518 no later than January 31, 2025.</p>
1936	An Act to Allow Certified Nurse Practitioners to Provide In-home Care Without a Home Health Care Provider License	Enacted as Public Law 2023, chapter 267	Public Law 2023, chapter 267 exempts home health care services provided directly by certified nurse practitioners from the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 419, which concerns home health services and the licensure of home health care providers.

**Unless otherwise noted, the general effective date is October 25, 2023.**

Prepared by Colleen McCarthy Reid, OPLA