



Notice of Public Comment Period and Information Meetings

Application for a State Innovation Waiver to Stabilize Maine's Individual Health Insurance Market and Reduce Premiums for Individual Consumers

The Maine Bureau of Insurance will conduct public information meetings and accept public comments on a proposal for a Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support the reactivation of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association (MGARA).

Background Summary

Section 1332 of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) permits a state to apply for a State Innovation Waiver to pursue innovative strategies to provide its residents with access to high-quality, affordable health insurance.

MGARA, pursuant to 2011 legislative authorization, had active operations in Maine in 2012-13. It provided reinsurance to the individual health insurance market which allowed premiums for that market to remain lower than they otherwise would have been. MGARA was funded by reinsurance premiums paid by health insurers as well as by a \$4 per member per month assessment across all segments of the health insurance market. Active operations were suspended in 2014 due to an analogous federal transitional reinsurance program which has since terminated.

In 2017, the Maine Legislature enacted a law that allows MGARA to resume operations, upon approval of the Superintendent of Insurance, however resumption is conditioned on the granting of a Section 1332 innovation waiver.

Under the proposed waiver application, savings to the federal government as a result of MGARA's operation would be returned to the State for the purpose of allowing MGARA to provide further premium relief to the individual market. The waiver application is required to be revenue neutral to the federal government.

More detailed information regarding the proposed waiver application may be viewed at the Maine Bureau of Insurance website. www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/mgara/index.html. Copies of this information will also be available at the public information meetings.

Public Information Meetings

Public information meetings will include a presentation about the proposed waiver application, followed by a time for questions and comments. Comments at the meeting may be submitted orally or in writing. The meeting dates, times and locations are as follows:

April 12, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Husson University, 1 College Circle, Bangor, Maine

April 13, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Room 213, Abromson Community Education Center, 88 Bedford St., Portland, Maine

Persons in need of auxiliary aid for effective participation in the meetings are invited to contact Karma Lombard at (207) 624-8540 or by email at karma.y.lombard@maine.gov .

Public Comments

Written comments will also be accepted by email to karma.y.lombard@maine.gov or by mail to Maine Bureau of Insurance, 34 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0034, ATTN: 1332 Proposed Waiver Application until 5:00 p.m. on May 2, 2018.