

SENATE

GEOFFREY M. GRATWICK, DISTRICT 9, CHAIR
NED CLAXTON, DISTRICT 20
MARIANNE MOORE, DISTRICT 6

ANNA BROOME, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ERIN DOOLING, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ROWLAND ROBINSON, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

PATRICIA HYMANSON, YORK, CHAIR
MARGARET CRAVEN, LEWISTON
ANNE C. PERRY, CALAIS
COLLEEN M. MADIGAN, WATERVILLE
RACHEL TALBOT ROSS, PORTLAND
MICHELE MEYER, ELIOT
HOLLY B. STOVER, BOOTHBAY
BETH A. O'CONNOR, BERWICK
KATHY IRENE JAVNER, CHESTER
ABIGAIL W. GRIFFIN, LEVANT

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

June 13, 2019

Commissioner Jeanne M. Lambrew
Department of Health and Human Services
221 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

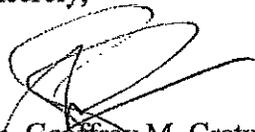
Dear Commissioner Lambrew,

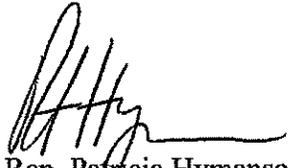
The Health and Human Services Committee recently considered LD 1142, Resolve, To Expand Transportation Services for Seniors Who Are MaineCare Members. LD 1142 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide transportation services to individuals receiving Section 19 services if those services are in the person's plan of care. It also requires the department to develop a plan to provide transportation services to other elderly individuals who do not have transportation to services that meet basic needs.

The Committee decided to carry over LD 1142 due to apparent conflicts between MaineCare rules and the practicalities of the brokerage system. According to the guidance from CMS as well as MaineCare rules, members receiving home and community based waiver services (Sections 18, 19, 20, 21 and 29) are entitled to transportation if it is needed to gain access to services specified in the plan of care and the person has no other means of transportation. Similarly, the Nonemergency Transportation (NET) rules appear to include coverage for transportation for non-medical services in approved plans of care for home and community based service waiver members. However, our understanding is that there is no reimbursement or code for this service in the NET rules and the brokers do not provide this service.

We request that the Department provides this Committee with a report, no later than January 15, 2020, with a plan for resolving this conflict and determining how members receiving home and community based services on a waiver could receive transportation using the NET service for non-medical services required in plans of care. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,


Sen. Geoffrey M. Gratwick
Senate Chair


Rep. Patricia Hymanson
House Chair

cc: Health and Human Services Committee members
Representative Maxmin, Sponsor of LD 1142
Michelle Probert, Director of MaineCare, DHHS
Paul Saucier, Director of the Office of Aging and Disability Services, DHHS
Molly Bogart, Director of Government Relations, DHHS