

# Proposed Bills That May Affect EMS

## State of Maine Legislative Bills - 1st Session - 2019

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LD#	Bill Name	Sponsor	Summary
29	<a href="#">"Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To Address the Opioid Crisis in the State by Establishing a Work Group To Develop Educational Programming for Prevention of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders among Youth and Adolescents" (Emergency)</a>	Rep. Joyce McCreight	This resolve is based on recommendations of the Task Force To Address the Opioid Crisis in the State, which submitted its report to the Legislature in December 2017. The resolve requires the Department of Education to establish a work group to evaluate existing substance use prevention programs targeting school-age children, investigate prevention programs that have proven effective in other areas of the United States or in other countries, identify funding resources and determine how prevention programs should be incorporated into education curricula. The work group must include representatives of educational, law enforcement and public health organizations. The department is required to submit a report of the findings of the work group no later than January 1, 2020 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.
30	<a href="#">"An Act To Improve Health Care Data Analysis"</a>	Rep. Anne Perry	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to improve the State's capacity to use data regarding health care costs and health care systems. The State's ability to better analyze and use data regarding health care utilization and health care quality will serve to inform the State's health care policy.
47	<a href="#">"An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations"</a>	Rep. Michael Brennan	The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, will be used for the rehabilitation or new construction of fire stations by municipalities.
51	<a href="#">"An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Health Care Coverage for All of Maine"</a>	Sen. Heather Sanborn	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Health Care Coverage for All of Maine.

52	<a href="#">"An Act To Provide an Affordable and Accessible Health Care System for All Maine Residents"</a>	Sen. Geoffrey Gratwick	<p>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to establish a health care system in the State that will be simple and efficient for all consumers and providers. The bill proposes to provide all Maine residents with access to an affordable health benefit plan covering essential health benefits. The bill proposes to create the Health Care Trust, which will have authority to determine essential health care benefits, to negotiate with providers, to reimburse providers for the costs of providing care at negotiated rates and to manage the financing mechanisms for the trust. All Maine residents will be eligible to enroll in the trust on a voluntary basis. Those residents currently eligible for MaineCare or other public coverage will be automatically enrolled; MaineCare and other public coverage programs will be replaced by the trust's health care coverage. The bill proposes to use several funding sources to pay for the costs of the trust and for coverage of all Maine residents enrolled in the trust for coverage, including payroll taxes, transaction taxes and available federal funding. The Health Care Trust will be administered by a health care administrator and overseen by a board of trustees. In addition, a stakeholder advisory board will provide input and guidance for the trust.</p>
66	<a href="#">"An Act To Prohibit Hospitals from Discussing Alternative Payment Options with Hospitalized Patients"</a>	Sen. Mark Lawrence	<p>This bill prohibits a hospital from communicating with a patient regarding alternative payment options at any time during a patient's hospitalization unless that communication is requested by the patient. The bill permits communication with a patient prior to or upon the patient's admission to the hospital or at the time of discharge.</p>

84	<a href="#">"Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Allow Spouses To Provide Home and Community-based Services to Eligible MaineCare Members"</a>	Rep. Patrick Corey	<p>This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend the current federal 1915(c) waiver so that eligible members receiving home and community-based services under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 19 will be able to receive services provided by spouses who are employed as personal support specialists to provide those services. It requires the department to amend its rules after the amended waiver approval has been received from the Federal Government. The resolve requires the department to provide an interim report regarding the progress in applying for, receiving and implementing the amended waiver and a final report with data on the number of individuals receiving services from spouses, any information about costs or savings and recommendations about the feasibility for similarly expanding other MaineCare programs or other potential waiver programs available under Medicaid.</p>
124	<a href="#">An Act To Exempt from Sales Tax an Island-based Nonprofit Provider of Ambulance Services</a>	Rep. Janice Cooper	<p>This bill provides a sales tax exemption for sales of watercraft that will be used to provide ambulance services and sales of ambulance supplies to an incorporated nonprofit transportation company that provides ambulance services from an island not served by a bridge to the mainland pursuant to a written agreement with a municipality to provide ambulance services without charge. An incorporated nonprofit transportation company providing ambulance services using watercraft certified and inspected by the United States Coast Guard is not required to be licensed as an ambulance service in order to be eligible for the exemption.</p>

159	<a href="#">"An Act To Require Cameras in Ambulances When a Patient Is Being Transported"</a>	Sen. David Miramant	<p>This bill requires that, whenever an ambulance transports a patient from the scene of an emergency or from a hospital or other health care facility to another place, the ambulance must be equipped with video recording equipment that is in operation for the duration of the transport and that is producing a clear video record of the care provided to the patient. In accordance with applicable federal and state law, the video records are to be maintained as confidential by the ambulance service operator and, if applicable, by the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Department of Public Safety.</p>
195	<a href="#">An Act To Continue MaineCare Coverage for Parents During the Rehabilitation and Reunification Process</a>	Rep. Patricica Hymanson	<p>This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a waiver request no later than January 1, 2020 to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement the provisions of this bill that require the department to continue to provide MaineCare coverage to a parent who is a MaineCare member and who is participating in rehabilitation and reunification efforts in accordance with a rehabilitation and reunification plan. The department is required to take all reasonable and necessary steps to seek approval of the waiver. Upon approval of the waiver, the department is directed to adopt rules no later than 180 days after receiving approval. The department is required to report its progress in seeking a waiver and implementing rules on a quarterly basis beginning October 1, 2019 until the process is complete.</p>
215	<a href="#">An Act To Increase the Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Service Paid by the Department of Corrections</a>	Rep. William Pluecker	<p>This bill requires the Department of Corrections, or its contracted medical provider, to pay to a provider of ambulance services 225% of the allowable reimbursement under the MaineCare program for ambulance services provided for a person residing in a correctional or detention facility.</p>

227	<a href="#">An Act To Strengthen Maine's Public Health Infrastructure</a>	Rep. Anne Perry	<p>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures designed to strengthen the State's public health infrastructure by: 1. Identifying community-level geographic regions where essential public health services, including competent and qualified comprehensive community health coalitions, can be funded equitably; 2. Ensuring that basic and essential public health services be delivered in each public health district and tribal health district; 3. Identifying emerging nonclinical public health workers, including community health workers, community paramedics, recovery coaches and resiliency coaches, who can strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of public health service delivery; 4. Facilitating, when possible, the integration and collaboration of public and private public health professionals with public safety professionals and emergency preparedness professionals; and 5. Enabling the operation of public health professionals, public safety professionals and emergency preparedness professionals as a cohesive and coordinated public health team to improve the visibility and understanding of public health among Maine children and adults.</p>
264	<a href="#">An Act Regarding the Taking of a Blood Sample from an Operator of a Motor Vehicle Involved in a Fatal Accident</a>	Sen. Scott Cyrway	<p>This bill allows an emergency medical services person or law enforcement officer whose training allows that person to draw blood samples to draw a specimen of blood from the operator of a motor vehicle involved in a fatal traffic accident for the purpose of determining the blood-alcohol level or the presence of a drug or drug metabolite. This bill extends to those same persons the current law shielding persons from liability for acts done or omitted in collecting or withdrawing specimens of blood.</p>

304	<a href="#">An Act To Improve Stroke Care in Maine</a>	Rep. Teresa Pierce	This bill provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention for evidence-based education efforts designed to inform residents of the State about the causes, signs and symptoms of stroke, focusing on populations and geographic areas most affected by stroke, and to improve stroke surveillance and epidemiology efforts of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The bill also provides funding for one Stroke Care Coordinator position in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
329	<a href="#">An Act To Exempt from Criminal Liability Persons Reporting a Drug-related Medical Emergency</a>	Rep. Barbara Cardone	This bill exempts from arrest or prosecution a person who in good faith seeks medical assistance for another person experiencing a drug-related overdose or who is experiencing a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance. The person may not be arrested or prosecuted for a violation of laws prohibiting the possession of scheduled drugs, acquiring drugs by deception, the possession of hypodermic apparatuses and the use of drug paraphernalia or a violation of probation if the grounds for arrest or prosecution are obtained as a result of the person's seeking medical assistance or experiencing a drug-related overdose.
407	<a href="#">An Act To Promote Universal Health Care, Includingn Dental, Vision and Hearing Care</a>	Rep. Heidi Brooks	This bill establishes a single-payer health care system in the State, effective July 1, 2022, that finances health care services for most Maine residents. The bill directs the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters to jointly submit during the 2019 legislative interim legislation to fully implement the single-payer system.
437	<a href="#">An Act To Improve Access to and Affordability of Health Care in Maine</a>	Sen. Matthew Pouliot	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to improve access to and affordability of health care in Maine.

439	<a href="#">Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services To Convene a Task Force To Study the Need for Long-term Acute Care Hospital</a>	Sen. Ned Claxton	This resolve requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to convene a task force to evaluate the need for long-term acute care beds in the State. The commissioner is required to submit a report detailing findings of the task force and recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, which may submit a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.
466	<a href="#">"An Act to Create a Diesel Fuel Tax Differential"</a>	Rep. Denise Tepler	This bill imposes an additional 5¢ per gallon fuel tax on diesel fuel and requires that revenue from the tax be used only for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public highways and bridges. The additional tax is repealed on November 1, 2022. The Commissioner of Transportation is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by March 1, 2022 identifying the amount of revenue collected and the purposes for which the revenue was or will be used. The committee is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature to retain, repeal or amend provisions relating to the diesel fuel tax differential.
475	<a href="#">"An Act To Ensure Caller Access to E-9-1-1 Call Recordings"</a>	Sen. Nathan Libby	This bill allows disclosure of an audio recording of an E-9-1-1 call to the person who made the call or the person's attorney.
546	<a href="#">"An Act To Enhance Highway Safety by Strengthening the So-called Move Over Law"</a>	Sen. Bill Diamond	This bill increases from \$250 to \$350 the minimum fine for passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using an emergency light or a stationary public service vehicle using its authorized lights and failing to pass in a lane that is not adjacent to the stationary vehicle or, if passing in a nonadjacent lane would be impossible or unsafe, failing to pass at a careful and prudent speed.
615	<a href="#">"An Act To Protect the Integrity of the MaineCare Program"</a>	Rep. Patricia Hymanson	This bill provides that, without authorization from the Legislature by proper enactment of a law, the Department of Health and Human Services may not implement changes in the Medicaid program or the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program that significantly change enrollment in the program, the category or scope of covered services or the funding mechanisms for the program, unless required by federal law.

653	<a href="#">Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Study Opportunities for Improving Home and Community-based services</a>	Rep. Janice Cooper	<p>This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study Opportunities for Improving Home and Community-based Services. The task force membership consists of Legislators, representatives of entities knowledgeable about or involved in home and community based services, one provider of such services, one recipient of such services, th Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Labor and one member of the public. The task force's duties include examination and review of the unmet need for home and community-based services, adequacy of the workforce providing home and community-based services, current systems for delivering home and community-based services and reimbursement arrangements in the home and community based services sector. The task force is required to publish an interim report by October 15, 2019 and then seek input from stakeholders around the State. The task force must report its findings and recommendations, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 15, 2019.</p>
673	<a href="#">An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Circumstances of Death that Must Be Reported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner</a>	Rep. Matthew Moonen	<p>This bill amends the law governing the Department of the Attorney General, Office of Chief Medical Examiner as follows. 1. It clarifies that, absent certain other circumstances, the fact that a patient dies within 24 hours of admission to a hospital or other health care facility need not be reported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. 2. It removes the requirement that deaths due to the consequences of long-term alcohol use be reported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. 3. It allows a duly appointed medicolegal death investigator, in addition to a medical examiner, to certify that further examination or judicial inquiry concerning the cause and manner of death of a person is not necessary.</p>
674	<a href="#">An Act To Improve the E-9-1-1 System</a>	Rep. Christina Riley	<p>This bill proposes to enact measures designed to upgrade the State's E-9-1-1 system in accordance with certain recommendations contained in the report related to standardized dispatch protocols for police 9-1-1 calls that was presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology on January 15, 2019 by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.</p>

743	<a href="#">An Act To Create Local Options in E-9-1-1 Protocol Mandates</a>	Rep. Lydia Blume	<p>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact certain measures designed to allow for increased flexibility in emergency dispatch protocols. Currently, structured, standardized call taking processes are implemented to assess a caller's condition, scene information and the appropriate response to dispatch to the emergency. This bill would examine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether protocol-based call-taking processes result, in certain instances, in delays in emergency response and the need for additional staffing;</li> <li>2. The extent to which the use of protocols improves or impedes the delivery of emergency services;</li> <li>3. Any outstanding issues associated with appropriate and effective training in the use of emergency dispatch protocols; and</li> <li>4. The costs associated with the implementation of standardized police dispatch protocols that are borne by municipalities.</li> </ol>
872	<a href="#">An Act To Forgive Education Debt for Certain Health Care Professionals Who Work in the State</a>	Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio	<p>This bill creates the Health Care Professional Education Loan Repayment Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to repay the education debt of certain health care professionals who agree to live and work in the State for a minimum of 5 years. Under the program, the authority will pay 20% of the education debt or \$25,000, whichever is lower, for each year of participation in the program up to a total of \$125,000 for a health care professional who is not employed in a federally designated health professional shortage area and 20% of the education debt or \$30,000, whichever is lower, for each year of participation in the program up to a total of \$150,000 for a health care professional who is employed in a federally designated health professional shortage area. The program is contingent on funding from the proceeds from the renewal of the contract for the operations of the State's wholesale spirits business.</p>

886	<a href="#">An Act To Protect Volunteer Search and Rescuers Certified by the Maine Association for Search and Rescue from Adverse Employment Actions</a>	Rep. Donna Bailey	<p>This bill provides the same protections to volunteer search and rescuers for absences from work in responding to search and rescue operations requested by a law enforcement agency as volunteer firefighters receive for absences from work in responding to emergencies. Under this bill, a volunteer search and rescuer is a person who has been certified in search and rescue practices and procedures by a nonprofit search and rescue training organization recognized by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Warden Service.</p>
915	<a href="#">An Act To Provide Adequate Reimbursement under MaineCare for Ambulance and Neonatal Transport Services</a>	President Troy Jackson	<p>This bill specifies that beginning September 1, 2019 the reimbursement rate for ambulance services under the MaineCare program may not be less than the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare and reimbursement for neonatal transport services under MaineCare must be at the average rate for critical care transport services under Medicare.</p>