

# Proposed Bills That May Affect EMS

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

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LD#	Bill Name	Sponsor	Summary
29 (DEAD)	<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	Bill is Dead as of 2/14/19 (Joint Rule 310.3)
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>
1014	<a href="#">An Act To Attract and Retain Firefighters</a>	Sen. Erin Herbig	<p>This bill provides funding to the Maine Length of Service Award Program to provide length of service awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.</p>

1052	<a href="#">An Act To Require Regular and Transparent Review of MaineCare Reimbursement Rates</a>	Sen. Heather Sanborn	<p>This bill establishes a regular review process for MaineCare reimbursement rates. The Department of Health and Human Services shall review all rates over a 3-year period except those that are already subject to regular review, based on cost, reimbursed at a capitated rate, or tied to Medicare or some other rates. The 3-year schedule and the reviews are required to be submitted to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and appropriations and financial affairs. The results of reviews are also submitted to the Governor for consideration for inclusion in the biennial budget. The bill also establishes the MaineCare Reimbursement Rates Review Advisory Committee made up of stakeholders appointed by the Presiding Officers and the minority leaders in the Legislature to provide advice and input to the department on rate reviews. The advisory committee also submits an annual review of its activities to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and appropriations and financial affairs. The advisory committee is staffed by the Department of Health and Human Services.</p>
1064	<a href="#">An Act To Address Maine's Firefighter Shortage by Offering Firefighter Training for Credit in High School Career and Technical Education Programs</a>	Rep. John Andrews	<p>This bill allows career and technical education centers and regions to offer firefighter 11 training as an approved program and requires the program to use National Fire Protection 12 Association standards for fire fighter professional qualifications as the industry standard 13 for the firefighter training.</p>
1092	<a href="#">An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Critical Incident Stress Management Teams</a>	Sen. Shenna Bellows	<p>This bill clarifies the qualifications and duties of members of critical incident stress management teams and provides that the services of critical incident stress management teams are provided to employees of state, county or municipal government entities that provide or have the authority to provide fire, emergency medical or police services.</p>
1165	<a href="#">An Act To Support the Operation of Fixed-wing Air Medical Transport in Northern Maine</a>	President Troy Jackson	<p>This bill provides funding to the Northern Light A.R. Gould Hospital in Presque Isle to fund and support the operation of a fixed-wing aircraft out of Caribou.</p>

1169	<a href="#">An Act To Provide Ready Access to Defibrillators in Businesses and Pharmacies</a>	Sen. Susan Deschambault	<p>This bill requires the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to amend the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code to require that commercial buildings built or renovated on or after January 1, 2020 with occupancy exceeding 200 individuals have an operational automated external defibrillator on the premises. The bill also requires that retail pharmacies, rural health center pharmacies and free clinic pharmacies have an automated external defibrillator on the premises, and that an individual trained in the use of the defibrillator be present at all times the pharmacy is open to the public.</p>
1188	<a href="#">An Act To Provide Preventive Counseling to Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services' Persons as Part of Their Training</a>	Rep. Abigail Griffin	<p>This bill requires that firefighter training include preventive and post-trauma counseling, at which a counseling professional licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 119 or the fire department chaplain must be available to work with the firefighters, as required by the fire chief. The bill provides that, with advice from and in consultation with each regional council and its medical control committee and with the statewide emergency medical services' medical director, the Emergency Medical Services' Board may adopt routine technical rules setting mandatory requirements for preventive and post-trauma counseling for basic and advanced training for emergency medical services' persons for initial licensing and relicensing. The requirements may include the services of a counseling professional licensed under Title 33 32, chapter 119 or a chaplain to be provided by ambulance services and nontransporting emergency medical services.</p>
1236	<a href="#">An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing the Licensing of Paramedics</a>	Rep. James Handy	<p>This bill defines paramedic and paramedic emergency medical treatment in the laws governing the provision of emergency medical treatment. It also authorizes the Emergency Medical Services' Board to establish by rule appropriate licensure levels for paramedics and the qualifications for persons to hold those licenses.</p>

1263	<a href="#">An Act Regarding Telehealth</a>	Sen. Geoffrey Gratwick
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This bill does the following. 1. It provides immunity from liability to health care practitioners who voluntarily provide health care services through telehealth in the same manner as immunity is provided to health care practitioners who voluntarily provide health care services in person. 2. It requires carriers that offer health plans in this State to provide coverage for health care services provided through telehealth services in the same manner as coverage is provided for services provided in person and sets forth certain standards for coverage of telehealth services. 3. It clarifies that carriers may apply prior approval and credentialing requirements for providers for services provided through telehealth services only if the requirements are the same as are applied for services provided in person. 4. It makes the bill's provisions apply to health insurance policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2020.

1288	<a href="#">An Act To Establish a MaineCare Reimbursement Rate Review Process and the MaineCare Independent Rate Commission</a>	Rep. Richard Farnsworth	<p>This bill establishes a process by which the Department of Health and Human Services maintains a schedule of MaineCare program reimbursement rate reviews in which each rate is reviewed at least every 5 years. Under this process, the department reviews a rate for access, service, quality and use of service and compares the rate reimbursed with available benchmarks, including Medicare rates and usual and customary rates paid by private parties, and uses qualitative tools to assess whether reimbursements are sufficient to allow for provider retention and recipient access and to support appropriate reimbursement of high-value services. The department is required to provide a report of its review to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, the MaineCare Independent Rate Commission, a 24-member group of interested parties providing oversight of the rate review process, and stakeholders. After holding public meetings and consulting stakeholders and stakeholder groups and consultation with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget, the department makes recommendations on the MaineCare reimbursement rates to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs to assist in developing the department's budget.</p>
1295	<a href="#">An Act To Determine the Need To Increase the Number of Forensic Emergency and Crisis Beds</a>	Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross	<p>This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to direct the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections to determine the current need for forensic emergency and crisis beds to ensure the prompt and humane treatment of arrested individuals who are suffering from mental illness and awaiting trial. In making this determination, the departments shall consider: 1. The number of currently available forensic emergency and crisis beds; 2. The number of individuals currently awaiting placement pretrial; 3. The annual average number of individuals needing forensic services pretrial; 4. Proposals to address unmet needs and associated costs; and 5. Other factors that would lessen wait times for placements and provide needed mental health services to individuals pretrial.</p>

1319	<a href="#">An Act To Prohibit Employer Disciplinary Action against Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Responding to an Emergency</a>	Rep. Nicole Grohoski	<p>Current law protects a firefighter from disciplinary action by an employer when the firefighter is absent from work at the beginning of the work day because the firefighter is responding to an emergency. This bill extends the protection to a firefighter who leaves work during regular working hours to respond to an emergency and provides the same protections to an emergency medical services person. The bill revises provisions regarding employer notification regarding absences and employee status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person and removes an employer's ability to designate an employee as essential</p>
1350	<a href="#">An Act To Improve Rural Health Care</a>	President Troy Jackson	<p>This bill provides that, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, student loan payments made by a taxpayer's employer directly to a lender on behalf of a qualified health care employee are not included in federal adjusted gross income for Maine income tax purposes. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II and Chapter III regarding reimbursement to rural and nonrural hospitals, acute care critical access hospitals and rural health clinics.</p>