

131st Legislature

First Regular Session *and*

First Special Session Update

Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services *April 10, 2023*

Budget and Start of Special Session

Legislation referred to the Health & Human Services Committee

Legislation referred to the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee

Other Bills of Interest

Questions/Discussion

Budget

Governor's Biennial Budget FY24 & FY25

LD 258 *An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025*

Included

- Funding to continue 125%/AAAA initiative for Direct Care Service rates and annual COLA for rates that have not been adjusted under the new Rate Setting System
- Additional funding to clear Section 29 waitlist by June of 2025 and additional funding to support people on Section 21 waitlist (level 1)
- Additional funding for first 6 months of Lifespan Waiver January – June 2025

Budget (continued)

Instead of moving forward with Governor's Budget, a Majority budget passed in March to be in effect by July 1, 2023

- *“Continuing Services” budget did not include new items/initiatives*
- *Session adjourned and Governor called a Special Session which began April 5, 2023*

A new budget bill “Change Package” will be introduced later this month, presumably with the original initiatives along with funding for bills that make their way out of committee and through the House and Senate.

- *Unlikely to have additional public hearing*

A record number of bills were proposed at the start of session

Approximately 1575 of 2100 + bills have been “printed”

Public hearings and work sessions are underway

Senate and House now meeting 3 days each week to move bills

Session scheduled to end June 21, 2023

MCHQS Bills of Interest Page

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g11Oy0Y6EhfdOnWLa683hll9glrQYtYuJrnB_zlO8ls/edit?usp=sharing

List of Active Bills that impact IDD Community

Link to bill, summary and status

Links on how to testify in person, by zoom and how to submit testimony

List of Committee Members

Health and Human Services Committee

Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

Appropriations

Other Bills of Interest?

Questions/Discussion?

Contact your State Representative and Senator about issues that matter to you!

USEFUL LINKS

Maine Legislature Homepage: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>

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Find your State Representative:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles>

Find your State Senator:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/senate-home-page/find-your-state-senator>

Testifying in Person

- Check the committee for sign up times. If you missed sign up, let the clerk know. Many chairs will allow you to testify last - after those who signed up have gone
- If you intend **to testify in-person in the committee room**, you are **not required to register online** or upload written testimony
- If you have written testimony when you testify in-person, bring 20 copies.
- If your testimony is part of the budget hearings, bring 40 copies
- Written testimony can be any length. The testimony you give is limited to 3 minutes

Sign up to Testify Remotely and/or submit testimony here:

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

- Click on Public Hearing, then choose the Committee and then the date of the hearing.
- Choose the LD# you are looking for.
- If you intend to provide live testimony please be sure to check the box that says “I would like to present my testimony live” to facilitate receiving the link to join the Zoom Webinar.
- You can upload a file or type your testimony in the open box. Once you have provided the rest of the requested information you will check the box next to “I’m not a robot” and finally click the Submit/Register button
- You will receive confirmation that your testimony was received
- By zoom: Enter the hearing through the link you received, wait to be called

Questions/Discussion?

Thank you!

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MACSP

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