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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair  
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Henry Ingwersen, Senate Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

DATE: January 28, 2025

SUBJECT: LD 209, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

The Health and Human Services Committee is pleased to provide its recommendations on LD 209, the Fiscal Year 2025 supplemental budget bill. Pursuant to Joint Rule 304, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services met to review the supplemental budget initiatives and language pertaining to the agencies under our jurisdiction. All members with the exception of Senator Nangle were present for the votes or registered their votes in a timely fashion.

Committee votes on the initiatives proposed in the budget are included in the attached Green Sheet and votes on the language sections are included in the attached Purple Sheet. The committee also voted to submit one additional language section for consideration. The votes of the committee are summarized below.

**Initiatives**

- **Lines 1-8** (green sheet); (I-A-7919, I-A-7927, I-A-7928, I-A-7929, I-A-7920, I-A-7794, I-A-2106): **Voted IN - unanimous of those voting**
- **Line 9** (green sheet); (I-A-7799): **VOTED IN – 7-5**, along party lines (Democrats voted IN, Republicans opposed)

## Language

- Part K: **VOTED IN – 7-5**, along party lines (Democrats voted IN, Republicans opposed)
- Part L: **VOTED IN – unanimous of those voting**
- Part M: **VOTED IN – unanimous of those voting**
- Part N: **VOTED IN – unanimous of those voting**
- Part S: **VOTED OUT – unanimous of those voting**

As regards the changes to General Assistance proposed by Part S, the committee understands that the Department is amenable to delaying discussion of the proposed changes to the biennial budget deliberations.

The committee unanimously voted to propose the following language be added to the supplemental budget:

**Sec. . Cost of living adjustment for essential support workers.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 1.95% in fiscal year 2025 for reimbursement rates for essential support workers pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 7402. The department shall seek approval as soon as practicable. Upon approval, the department shall make the COLA retroactive to the effective date approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposals. We are happy to further discuss this report at any time.

Cc: Health and Human Services Committee members  
Commissioner Sara Gagné-Holmes, Department of Health and Human Services  
Deputy Commissioner Benjamin Mann, Department of Health and Human Services  
Abby Stivers, Government Relations Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
Maureen Dawson, OFPR  
Lucia Nixon, OFPR  
Anna Broome, OPLA  
Samuel Senft, OPLA