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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 *Henry Ingwersen*
Representative Michele Meyer, House Chair *Michele Meyer*
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

DATE: March 4, 2026

SUBJECT: LD 2212, An Act Making Supplemental 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, 2026 and June 30, 2027

The Health and Human Services Committee is pleased to provide its recommendations on LD 2212, the Fiscal Year 2026 supplemental budget bill. Pursuant to Joint Rule 304, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services met several times to review the supplemental budget initiatives and language pertaining to the agencies under our jurisdiction. All members 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 additional initiatives for consideration. The votes of the committee are summarized below.

Initiatives (lines indicated reflect the green sheet). All divided reports are along party lines.

- **Lines 1-11** (F-A-1407; F-A-1929; F-A-1930; F-A-1932; F-A-7888; F-A-1735): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 12-15** (F-A-1737): **Voted IN – unanimous.**
- **Lines 16-46** (F-A-1738; F-A-1739; F-A-1740; F-A-1741; F-A-1742; F-A-1743; F-A-1747; F-A-1927; F-A-1931; F-A-1932; F-A-1934; F-A-7746): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 47-51** (F-A-7748): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted IN with amendment – include funding for cost of care but exclude funding for positions)**

- **Lines 52-68** (F-A-1614; F-A-7617; F-A-7888; F-A-1219; F-A-2023; F-A-1618; F-A-1069; F-A-2): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 69-70** (F-A-1838): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Lines 71-72** (F-A-2017): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 73-84** (F-A-2020; F-A-2021; F-A-2022; F-A-2027; F-A- 2029; F-A-2030): **Voted: IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Line 85** (F-A-7888): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 86-92** (F-T-7175; F-A-1837): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Lines 93-123** (F-A-1316; F-A-1406; F-A-2147; F-A-2149; F-A-7152; F-A-7172; F-A-1613): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 124-138** (F-A-2143): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Lines 139-140** (F-A-2150): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 141-144** (F-A-2151; F-A-7173): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Lines 145-153** (F-A-7171; F-A-7155; F-A-7174; F-A-7888): **Voted IN – unanimous.**
Please see below for additional committee commentary regarding lines 147 – 149
- **Lines 154-173** (F-A-1834; F-A-1835; F-A-1836; F-A-1839; F-A-1840; F-A-1857; F-T-7216): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Line 174** (F-A-1127): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Lines 175-177** (F-A-1128; F-A-1129): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Lines 178-179** (F-A-1130): **Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Line 180** (F-A-1131): **Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Line 181** (F-A-1933): **Voted IN – unanimous**

Language

- **Part L: Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted in favor of alternative language – see below)**
- **Part T: Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Part WW: Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Part XX: Voted IN – 8-5 (minority voted OUT)**
- **Part YY: Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Part AAA: Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Part BBB: Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Part CCC: Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Part DDD: Voted IN – unanimous**
- **Part EEE: Voted IN – unanimous**

Additional Unanimous Recommendations

In addition to the above recommendations regarding the Governor’s supplemental budget proposal, the HHS committee unanimously voted to recommend that AFA include the following in its supplemental budget:

1. **Funding for Services for Victims of Domestic Violence.** Last year, the committee unanimously supported LD 875, *An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence*, which would provide an ongoing appropriation of \$4,000,000 to support essential services for victims of domestic violence. The bill is currently on the Special Appropriations Table. The committee voted to support moving an ongoing

\$4,000,000 General Fund appropriation for services for victims of domestic violence into the supplemental budget.

- 2. Funding to Support the Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman.** The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman provided testimony during the public hearing regarding the office's need for additional funding to maintain a Regional Ombudsman position in Aroostook County. The committee recognizes the importance of this work and supports including an ongoing \$111,000 General Fund appropriation to support the Ombudsman Program.

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding in the long term care ombudsman program to support the continued statewide delivery of services.

	2026-2027
GENERAL FUNDS	
All other	111,000
	<hr/> 111,000

- 3. Funding for Supports for Older Adults.** Last year, the committee unanimously supported LD 814, *An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults*. The bill adds language expanding coordinated community programming for older adults to include case management and navigation services and provides ongoing funding of \$9,750,000 per year to develop programs and deliver services for older adults in each of the State's coordinated community program areas. The bill is currently on the Special Appropriations Table. The committee supports including the provisions of the bill, including the \$9,750,000 annual appropriation, to the supplemental budget.
- 4. Funding for Preventive Dental Care for Children.** Last year, the committee unanimously supported an amended version of LD 1746, *An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children*. The bill, as amended:
 - Delays the requirement for oral health services to be available in all schools from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2027 and clarifies that the requirement applies only to public schools.
 - Requires DHHS to develop public-private partnerships to establish a model for mobile dental services providers to provide additional preventive oral health and disease intervention services in schools. It requires the department to provide for at least one mobile dental services provider in each public health district per school year.
 - Requires DHHS to provide training and education by dental health professionals to primary care providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment for infants and small children.
 - Makes permanent 2 previously established limited positions within DHHS.The bill is currently on the Special Appropriations Table. The positions received funding last year through the budget process. However, funds are still required to support expansion of mobile dental care provided at schools. The committee supports including the provisions of the bill and its associated appropriations into the budget, but excluding the funding originally included for a Public Health Educator II position and a Planning

and Research Associate 1 position. The committee supports \$649,999 in annual ongoing funding to support mobile dental service providers.

5. **Funding for Children’s Residential Care.** Earlier this session, the committee unanimously supported an amended version of LD 2125, *An Act to Sustain Access to Children's Residential Care Services*. As amended, the bill provided \$1,000,000 in one time funding to establish a nonlapsing emergency stabilization fund to support child residential treatment facilities. The committee supports including the provisions of the bill as amended and its associated one-time appropriation of \$1,000,000.
6. **Funding for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.** Last year, the committee unanimously supported an amended version of LD 721, *Resolve, to Support the Full Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in the State*. As amended, the bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 to support the full implementation of the 5 certified community behavioral health clinics certified by the State as part of the federal Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Medicaid Demonstration Program under CMS, including hiring clinical and administrative staff critical to the success of the program. The bill is currently on the Special Appropriations Table. The committee supports including the provisions of the bill as amended and its associated one-time appropriation of \$1,000,000.
7. **Funding for the Maine Child Abuse Prevention Councils.** Last year, the committee unanimously supported an amended version of LD 1061, *An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine*. As amended, the bill provided \$1,563,470 in ongoing annual General Fund appropriations to the Office of Child and Family Services to strengthen the capacity of the Maine Child Abuse Prevention Councils to provide universal community support for families and essential child abuse prevention services statewide. The bill is currently on the Special Appropriations Table. Recent reexamination of the funds necessary has resulted in a new estimate of \$1,060,648. The committee supports \$1,060,648 in annual ongoing funding to support Maine Child Abuse Prevention Councils. This information from the Maine Children’s Trust is attached.
8. **Funding for Victims of Sexual Assault.** The committee recognizes the important work of sexual assault support centers in providing vital services to victims of sexual assault. The committee supports \$2,000,000 in ongoing General Fund appropriations to support the work of sexual assault support centers to provide community-based services to victims of sexual assault.
9. **Maine Veterans’ Homes.** The committee unanimously supports the initiative described in lines 147-149, which provides funding to reflect cost differences experienced by Maine Veterans’ Homes in per diem rates for services provided to MaineCare members. Committee members wish to express support for ongoing discussions between the Maine Veterans’ Homes, DHHS and legislators in finding a sustainable solution to the funding of Maine Veterans Homes that takes into account the unique challenges presented in determining appropriate MaineCare reimbursement rates for MaineCare members served in these facilities.

Recommendations Supported by Democrats

In addition to the above recommendations, the Democrats on the committee voted to support the inclusion of the following in the supplemental budget. The Republicans voted against including these proposals in the budget.

- 1. Funding for Child Care Affordability.** Earlier this session, the HHS committee issued a divided report of Ought to Pass as Amended/ Ought Not to Pass on LD 1955, *An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability*. The majority's amended version of the bill provides \$15,000,000 in ongoing funding for the Child Care Affordability Program to clear the current waitlist. The bill also requires DHHS to develop a long-term plan to ensure the financial stability of the Child Care Affordability Program.
- 2. Funding for the Child Care Employment Award.** Earlier this session, the HHS committee issued a divided report of Ought to Pass as Amended/ Ought to Pass as Amended on LD 2066, *An Act to Establish the Child Care Employment Award*. The majority's amended version of the bill establishes the Child Care Employment Award, making permanent a pilot program, in order to provide childcare subsidies to recipients who are employed by licensed child care facilities or family child care providers and whose children are receiving care from such facilities or providers. It appropriates ongoing General Funds of \$122,318 for a position to administer the program and \$3,000,000 ongoing General Funds for the award itself. The bill is currently on the Special Appropriations Table.
- 3. SNAP Reserve Fund.** Democrats on the committee support adding the following language to the budget to provide a mechanism for the state to fund SNAP benefits in the event the federal government does not fund SNAP.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§18 is enacted to read:

18. Contingency fund. The department shall establish and maintain a contingency fund, referred to in this subsection as "the fund," as a nonlapsing fund to provide SNAP benefits to recipients of SNAP benefits in the event the Federal Government fails to provide funding for SNAP benefits to the State. The department, in its sole discretion, shall use money from the fund for the purposes of this subsection in accordance with rules adopted by the department. All money appropriated by the State for the purposes of the fund must be deposited into the fund. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. __. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§19 is enacted to read:

19. States of emergency. During a state of emergency declared in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes that exceeds 10 continuous days, the Governor may distribute up to \$30,000,000 in a state fiscal year from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established by Title 5, section 1532 of the Maine Revised States to the fund established in subsection 18. The Department shall use these funds to provide SNAP benefits to households eligible for federal SNAP benefits.

The Commissioner may leverage funds distributed under this subsection to match any available federal funds.

Recommendations Supported by Republicans

The Republicans on the committee voted to support the inclusion of the following in the supplemental budget. The Democrats voted against including these proposals in the budget and the proposals are the minority report of the committee.

- 1. Hospital Rebasing.** The Republicans on the committee voted in favor of a new initiative to provide a supplemental payment to hospitals to offset the expenditures in lines 119-120 of the Green Sheet. The Republicans also voted to support providing one time funding in the amount of \$7,259,045 General Funds and \$16,514,773 federal match to support MaineCare funding for hospitals. Finally, they voted in favor of amending language part L by deleting section L-1 and L-3 but maintaining section L-2. The Democrats do not support inclusion of these proposals.
- 2. Timely MaineCare Payments to Hospitals.** Last year, the HHS committee issued a divided report on LD 331, *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports*. The majority voted "Ought not to Pass," while the minority's amended version of the bill requires DHHS to reimburse at least 75% of as-filed settlements pursuant to a hospital's cost reports within 90 days of receipt. It also provides one time funding to accelerate the payment of MaineCare reimbursements currently due to hospitals, one time funding to transition to MaineCare reimbursement of at least 75% of the as-filed settlement and funding for a DHHS position to support this work. The Republicans on the committee support including the language requiring DHHS to reimburse at least 75% of as-filed settlements pursuant to a hospital's cost reports within 90 days of receipt, \$51,000,000 in SFY 26-27 in one time funding to accelerate the payment of MaineCare reimbursements currently due to hospitals and one time funds consisting of \$23,860,357 in General Funds, \$59,486,943 in federal funds and \$1,053,730 in federal block grant funds to transition to MaineCare reimbursement of at least 75% of the as-filed settlement pursuant to a hospital's cost reports within 90 days of receipt. The Democrats do not support inclusion of this proposal.

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
Acting Deputy Commissioner Todd Haber, Department of Health and Human Services
Abby Stivers, Government Relations Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Lucia Nixon, OFPR
Robert Stowe, OFPR
Anna Broome, OPLA
Samuel Senft, OPLA

LD 1061 updated budget for fiscal note. From Heidi Aakjer, Maine Children's Trust

County	Community Coordinator	PC Director	Community Coordinator	PC Director at 10%= 4 hours/ week =208 Hours/Year
Androscoggin	1	.03	0	.07
Aroostook	0	.03	1	.07
Cumberland	.5	.03	.5	.07
Franklin	1	.15	0	.085
Hancock	0	.01	1	.09
Kennebec	.63	.03	.37	.07
Knox	0	0	1	.10
Lincoln	0	0	1	.10
Oxford	0	0	1	.10
Penobscot	.9	0	.1	.10
Piscataquis	.07	0	.93	.10
Sagadahoc	.42	0	.58	.10
Somerset	.8	.03	.2	.07
Waldo	0	.05	1	.05
Washington	1	.02	0	.05
York	1	.02	0	.08
TOTAL FTEs	7.32	.39	8.68	1.305
TOTAL \$ Amount	\$603,087	\$32,140	\$779,648	165,000

Increase in Funding for Community Coordinators = \$779,648

Increase in Funding for Directors = \$165,000

MCT Position = Support for Updated Contract Deliverables, Onboarding, Training, Technical Assistance, Outcomes/ Evaluation = \$116,000

TOTAL AMOUNT \$1,060,648.00

