



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 10019



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Offered by:

REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **7191**

File No. 413

Cal. No. 274

***"AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID RATE INCREASES, PLANNING
AND SUSTAINABILITY."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
4 "Medicaid rate study" means the study commissioned by the
5 Department of Social Services pursuant to section 1 of public act 23-186,
6 (2) "five-state rate benchmark" means the average of rates for the same
7 health care services in Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York
8 and Oregon, and (3) "Medicare Economic Index" means a measure of
9 inflation for physicians with respect to their practice costs and wage
10 levels as calculated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

11 (b) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of Social
12 Services shall phase in increases to Medicaid rates for providers and
13 health care services in accordance with the Medicaid rate study. The
14 commissioner shall phase in the rate increases commencing on July 1,
15 2025, such that by June 30, 2030, all such rates equal (1) not less than

16 seventy-five per cent of the most recent Medicare rates for the same
17 health care services, (2) for such services with no corresponding
18 Medicare rates, a percentage of the five-state benchmark that results in
19 an equivalent rate increase, or (3) as recommended by the Council on
20 Medical Assistance Program Oversight's Medicaid Rates Review
21 subcommittee.

22 (c) On and after June 30, 2030, the commissioner shall adjust such
23 rates every year in accordance with (1) the most recent Medicare rates
24 for the same health care services, (2) an equivalent percentage of the
25 five-state rate benchmark for such services with no corresponding
26 Medicare rates, (3) by the Medicare Economic Index, in the discretion of
27 the commissioner, or (4) as recommended by the Council on Medical
28 Assistance Program Oversight's Medicaid Rates Review subcommittee.

29 (d) In increasing such rates and making such rate adjustments, the
30 commissioner shall prioritize adjusting provider rates for pediatric and
31 adult health care services to achieve parity between such rates for the
32 same health care services.

33 (e) Not later than July 1, 2026, the commissioner shall consolidate
34 existing fee schedules used for provider or service reimbursement so
35 that every provider or service is being reimbursed using the same fee
36 schedule. In consolidating existing fee schedules, the commissioner
37 shall incorporate, to the extent applicable, the most recent Medicare fee
38 schedule for services covered by Medicare as well as Medicaid.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than November 1,
40 2025, the House and Senate chairpersons of the joint standing committee
41 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
42 human services shall appoint a subcommittee of the Council on Medical
43 Assistance Program Oversight entitled the "Medicaid Rates Review
44 subcommittee". The chairpersons of said joint standing committee shall
45 serve as chairpersons of the subcommittee, which shall conduct an
46 ongoing systemic review of Medicaid provider rates and service
47 reimbursement rates to ensure such rates are adequate to sustain a

48 sufficient provider pool to provide Medicaid beneficiaries sufficient
49 access to high-quality care.

50 (b) In consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services and the
51 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the subcommittee
52 shall create a process and schedule for the regular and predictable
53 review of Medicaid rates of reimbursement and the system used by the
54 state to reimburse Medicaid providers for health care services,
55 including, but not limited to, benchmarking such rates to Medicare rates
56 when possible. Not later than November 15, 2026, and annually
57 thereafter, the subcommittee shall present its findings and
58 recommendations to the Council on Medical Assistance Program
59 Oversight on Medicaid rates of reimbursement and access to services by
60 Medicaid beneficiaries.

61 (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the
62 chairpersons of the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight
63 shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
64 the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General
65 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and
66 the budgets of state agencies and human services and the Governor. The
67 report shall incorporate recommendations of the subcommittee and
68 include, but need not be limited to: (1) The identification of any provider
69 shortages and wait times for Medicaid beneficiaries to access services in
70 the state and identification of providers and health care services that
71 should be considered for prioritization of rate increases to avoid or
72 remedy such shortages or service gaps and achieve rate parity, (2)
73 necessary state appropriations to ensure Medicaid providers are
74 compensated for health care services in accordance with section 1 of this
75 act, and (3) recommendations to achieve parity between Medicaid rates
76 of reimbursement for adult and pediatric rates for the same health care
77 services.

78 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 17b-28 of the general statutes is
79 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
80 *2025*):

81 (d) [The council shall choose a chairperson from among its members.]
82 The chairpersons of the council shall be the House and Senate
83 chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
84 having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public
85 health. The Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall provide
86 administrative support to such [chairperson] chairpersons."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17b-28(d)

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Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17b-28(d)