



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1790

S.P. 628

In Senate, December 9, 2021

An Act To Ensure Equitable Geographic Access to Long-term Care Services in the Department of Health and Human Services

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake and
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, MADIGAN of Waterville, MARTIN of Sinclair,
STOVER of Boothbay.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §7304, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Statewide access. In accordance with this subsection and section 7305, subsection 4, the department shall ensure that in-home and community support services for adults with long-term care needs under this subtitle be equitably distributed across geographic areas of the State. Providers of these services must, at a minimum, be available for telephonic or in-person meetings in order to provide services in every county in the State. The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that access to in-home and community support services for adults with long-term care needs be equitably distributed across geographic areas of the State and provides that, at a minimum, providers must be available for telephonic or in-person meetings in order to provide services in every county in the State. The bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt routine technical rules to implement these provisions.