

Three Pharmacy Bills Heard

Last week, the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee held a public hearing on three bills:

[LD 2005, *An Act Regarding Mail Order Delivery of Prescription Drugs*](#), would require pharmacy benefit managers to allow prescriptions to be filled at a local network pharmacy if a mail-order delivery is delayed by more than one day or arrives unusable, with the goal of improving timely access to medications for Mainers. Supporters, including the bill sponsor, emphasized constituent concerns about USPS delays and the risk of missed doses, while opponents, represented by the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, argued the bill could disrupt the benefits of home delivery and suggested modifications to protect network integrity and reduce waste.

[LD 2019, *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Licensure of Wholesalers and Manufacturers Under the Maine Pharmacy Act*](#), updates current law to allow entities to apply for licensure without first having a federal DEA or FDA registration number, provided those numbers are submitted once obtained. Supporters including the bill sponsor, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, and the Healthcare Distribution Alliance argued the change removes a barrier in the licensing process, aligns state licensure with federal requirements, and ensures that critical medications can continue to be distributed to Maine pharmacies without interruption.

[LD 2011, *An Act to Remove the MaineCare Program from the Prescription Drug Benefit Provisions in the Maine Insurance Code*](#), would clarify state law by excluding MaineCare from the definition of ‘carrier’ for prescription drug benefit rules, eliminating confusion about the applicability of insurance code provisions to the Medicaid program. Testimony from the bill sponsor and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services emphasized that this change has no substantive impact on coverage but would improve clarity in the statute and reduce administrative uncertainty for MaineCare and future legislation.