



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

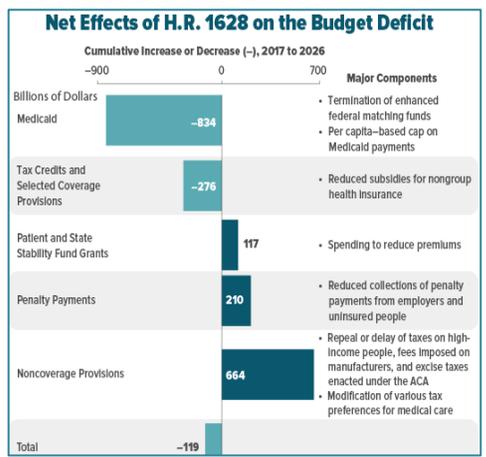
In this issue

- NACo Article: CBO Releases Score of Health Overhaul Bill
- Featuring Knox County
- Citizen's Police Academy
- Jail Security Electronic System
- Probate Office Offers US Passport Services
- Knox County Regional Airport

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Releases Score of Health Overhaul Bill

On May 24, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its highly-anticipated cost and coverage estimates of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on May 4. CBO scored an earlier version of the bill, prior to several amendments to the legislation to secure the simple majority of votes necessary in the House under the special legislative procedure known as budget reconciliation. The new CBO score estimates the full impact of AHCA and sets a baseline for deficit reduction that must be achieved in the Senate's final measure.

CBO estimates the House-passed AHCA would lead to 23 million more uninsured individuals over the next decade compared with current law. The CBO score also anticipates AHCA would reduce the federal deficit by \$119 billion in the same time frame, saving the federal government \$32 billion less than the previous version of the bill. CBO predicts federal support for Medicaid would be cut by \$834 billion over the next ten years, resulting in 14 million fewer Medicaid enrollees. The federal reduction in spending on Medicaid—both to the core program as it existed before the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed as well as the expansion of Medicaid adopted by 32 states that was made possible by the ACA—is responsible for most of the cost savings found in the AHCA. [~Click here for more by Brian Bowden](#)



Citizen's Police Academy



The Knox County Sheriff's Office's Citizen's Police Academy has completed two successful academy programs. Interest and participation in the program has been so high that the Sheriff's Office is likely to continue offering the program. Education has proven to be extremely effective in gaining understanding and support from the community. Through implementation of the Citizen's Police Academy, the Knox County Sheriff's Office can offer the citizens of Knox County new insights into how police, corrections officers and dispatchers perform their duties, as well as how these departments serve the community.

The Citizen's Police Academy is a ten-week program in which citizens from the community attend a three-hour class one night a week for ten weeks. The first CPA was a shorter program, but it was so popular that for the second round, the Sheriff's Office decided to lengthen the course and include more content. Interested citizens simply fill out an application they found on the Sheriff's Office website. The submitted applications are reviewed and attendees are selected by the Sheriff and her Command Staff.

The lead instructor of the Academy is Sergeant Lance Mitchell, with some classes taught by other deputies in the department, and guest speakers including representatives from the Knox County District Attorney's Office, the Knox Regional Communications Center, the Maine State Marine Patrol, the Maine Warden's Service, and others. The curriculum covers areas such as the history of policing, Maine Law, patrol procedures, criminal investigative techniques, evidence recovery, the K-9 program, Drug Recognition Expert Program, etc. Each academy participant receives basic hands-on training in arrest control and hand-to-hand combat techniques. Role playing is also an important component of the program.



The Citizen's Police Academy has been a great outreach tool in the community because it gives the average citizen a chance to understand what their local law enforcement is doing on a regular basis, and provides a way to forge positive bonds between citizens and the law enforcement officers sworn to protect them. The CPA has been such a success so far, that while it may not be feasible to do the program as often as we would like, the Knox County Sheriff's Office plans to continue the program in the future.

Knox County Jail Security Electronics System



The security electronics control system at the Knox County Jail, which operates the jail's cameras, doors, and other electrical system components, has been increasingly failing over time. Parts to repair the system are impossible to get now that they are no longer being made. The system should have been replaced some time ago, but the legislation capping the increases on the jail budget each year have all but prevented most capital improvement items needed by the jail. The County recently met with several vendors to choose one firm to assess the jail, determine what needs to be done to correct certain issues, and then design and build a new electronics security control system. The staff at the jail is eager to have the new system in place so operations will once again be a smoother process and they will no longer have to use keys to get through the doors. Norris, Inc. is the vendor that Knox County has chosen to assist with the design/build of the new security electronic control system. Knox County Representatives, SMRT, who is assisting Knox County with the process, and Norris, Inc. have been meeting to discuss components of the project and what Norris, Inc. has found during their investigation phase. A final meeting with a proposal from Norris, Inc. and a design will be presented in early June 2017. A construction start date will be set at that meeting as well.



In 1939, The Rockland Airport, located in the town of Owls Head, was constructed as a Works Projects Administration (WPA) project sponsored by the City of Rockland. 450 acres of "swamp land" were converted to public use. The airport now sits on 538 acres. The US Navy assumed control of the airport at the outset of WWII in 1941 and used it as a training base under Brunswick NAS. In 1946, it was returned through the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), to the City of Rockland for civil aviation. The County acquired the airport from the City of Rockland on December 4, 1968 and the airport was renamed Knox County Regional Airport. Some people still refer to the airport as Rockland Airport and the airport's call letters are still RKD.

Since 1968, the airport has been developed, runways have been expanded, the ILS (the instrument landing system which allows aircraft to land in inclement weather) has been installed and



a new environmentally friendly terminal has been constructed. The airport properties have been upgraded and maintained, primarily with grant money from a federal aviation fund created from user fees and aviation fuel taxes. The State of Maine contributes funds to capital improvement projects from transportation bonds and state taxes on aviation fuel. Although Knox County taxpayers have traditionally subsidized the airport operations, most of the local share of the capital improvements have been sourced from airport user fees and donations.



In March of 2015, the staff in the Knox County Probate Office began offering passport services to the public through the Probate Office. This has become an extremely popular service as it means that citizens can come in without having an appointment which is required at the post office. Probate staff can help citizens fill out the applicable forms and will even mail out the applications for them. The office doesn't have the ability to do passport photos, however, so those still need to be done elsewhere and brought with the person applying for the passport. The feedback from individuals making use of this new service in the Probate Office has been extremely positive!

