

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

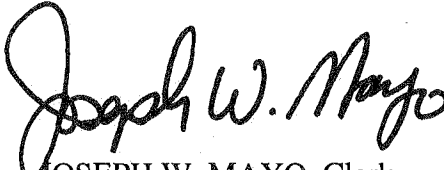
No. 913

H.P. 660

House of Representatives, February 6, 1997

An Act to Provide Funding for Mental Health Services for Homeless Shelters.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Speaker MITCHELL of Vassalboro.
Cosponsored by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and
Representatives: CHICK of Lebanon, FULLER of Manchester, KERR of Old Orchard Beach,
KONTOS of Windham, MITCHELL of Portland, NASS of Acton, Senators: LAWRENCE of
York, PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3610** is enacted to read:

6 **§3610. Mental health services in homeless shelters**

8 **1. Establishment.** The Mental Health Services in Homeless
10 Shelters Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is
12 established to provide funding to homeless shelters in the State
14 for the provision of mental health services to persons staying in
16 homeless shelters who need those services. The fund may not
18 lapse, but must be carried forward from one fiscal year to the
20 next.

22 **2. Funding.** The department shall oversee and administer
24 the fund in collaboration with the Interagency Task Force on
26 Homelessness and Housing Opportunities, referred to in this
28 section as the "task force." The task force shall direct the
30 department to award bids directly to shelters after the
32 completion of a competitive request-for-proposal bidding process.

34 **3. Community-based services.** Within 5 days of a person's
36 admission to a homeless shelter, if mental health workers
38 employed at that homeless shelter determine that the person is in
40 need of mental health services, the workers shall consult with
42 the department to identify an appropriate mental health and
44 residential placement in the community for that person. The
46 department shall implement that placement within a reasonable
48 period of time.

Sec. 2. Licensing standards for homeless shelters. In consultation
with the Maine Coalition for the Homeless and the Interagency
Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities, the
Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance
Abuse Services shall develop licensing standards for homeless
shelters. The department shall submit a report, including any
necessary implementing legislation, describing the licensing
standards for homeless shelters to the Joint Standing Committee
on Health and Human Services by October 1, 1997.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
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46	MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL	
47	RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE	
48	ABUSE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	

**Mental Health Services in
Homeless Shelters Fund**

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All Other

\$2,000,000

\$2,000,000

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Provides funds for direct awards to homeless shelters in the State for the provision of mental health services to persons in need of mental health services staying in shelters. Funds must be awarded through a competitive bidding process.

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SUMMARY

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This bill establishes the Mental Health Services in Homeless Shelters Fund to provide funding to homeless shelters in the State for the provision of mental health services to persons in need of those services staying in shelters. It appropriates \$2,000,000 to the fund in each year of this biennium, which must be provided directly to shelters through a competitive bidding process. The bill requires the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to oversee and award bids upon the recommendation of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities.

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The bill requires mental health workers in homeless shelters to consult with the department within 5 days of a person's admission to a shelter to identify an appropriate residential and mental health placement for the person in need of mental health services and to make the placement within a reasonable period of time.

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The bill also requires the department to develop licensing standards for homeless shelters in consultation with the Maine Coalition for the Homeless and the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by October 1, 1997.

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