MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 258

S.P. 125

In Senate, January 24, 2025

Resolve, to Establish a Program to Recruit and Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 23, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MARTIN of Oxford, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: MORRIS of Turner.

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- Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement program to provide recruitment and retention incentive to behavioral health clinicians. Resolved: That, to support the recruitment and retention of behavioral health clinicians in the State, the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop and implement a program to provide, during fiscal year 2025-26, a \$25,000 recruitment and retention incentive to those behavioral health clinicians in the State who meet criteria established by the department. The program developed by the department must, at a minimum, require that a behavioral health clinician and an employer sign a written agreement that includes conditions determined by the department for receiving the recruitment and retention incentive. The department shall establish criteria regarding participation in the program, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Eligibility criteria to participate in the program;
- 2. The minimum period of time a behavioral health clinician must agree to be employed by an employer; and
- 3. Conditions under which employment may be terminated by the behavioral health clinician or an employer and any obligations of the behavioral health clinician or an employer if employment is terminated, including the conditions under which the behavioral health clinician is required to repay the recruitment and retention incentive.
- **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, by December 3, 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report regarding the recruitment and retention incentive program developed and implemented pursuant to section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

23 SUMMARY

 This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a program to provide a \$25,000 recruitment and retention incentive to behavioral health clinicians in the State during fiscal year 2025-26. It directs the department to establish criteria regarding participation in the program and to submit a report regarding the program to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services in 2025.