MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1478

S.P. 493

In Senate, February 23, 1999

Resolve, to Require the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to Contract for the Operation of a Stabilization Facility.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Senator DOUGLASS of Androscoggin.

	Preamble. Whereas, the Department of Mental Health, Mental
2	Retardation and Substance Abuse Services has not contracted for
	the provision of a safe and secure stabilization facility in the
4	greater Lewiston-Auburn area since those services ceased to exist in January 1997; and
6	Whereas, currently persons in need of a safe and secure
8	environment in which to be stabilized, due to the effects of substance abuse, are held in hospital emergency rooms with a
10	police guard; and
12	Whereas, the current practice of holding persons suffering the effects of substance abuse in hospital emergency rooms is an
14	inefficient use of police personnel and subjects the public, often including children, utilizing emergency room services to
16	obnoxious and sometimes dangerous circumstances; now, therefore, be it
18	Sec. 1. Contract for a safe and secure stabilization facility serving
20	greater Lewiston-Auburn. Resolved: That the Department of Mental
	Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Office
22	of Substance Abuse shall contract for safe and secure short-term
	stabilization services for periods of 5 days or less for persons
24	in need of stabilization because of substance abuse in the
	greater Lewiston-Auburn area; and be it further
26	
	Sec. 2. Review of submissions. Resolved: That the contract be
28	awarded after issuance of a request for proposals and that the
	contract require a facility staffed for up to 5 residents and
30	located within the greater Lewiston-Auburn area with on-site and
	backup medical staff. A committee to review submissions in
32	response to the request for proposals must include at least 2
	members of the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Collaborative
34	of Androscoggin County; and be it further
36	Sec. 3. Appropriation. Resolved: That there is appropriated
38	from the General Fund the following sum to carry out the purposes of this resolve.
40	1999-00
	MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL
42	RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
44	
	Office of Substance Abuse

All Other

46

48

To fund a contract to provide substance

\$250,000

	abuse stabilization services in the greater
2	Lewiston-Auburn area
	; and be it further
4	
	Sec. 4. Nonlapsing funds. Resolved: That any funds that are
6	not expended at the end of the fiscal year may not lapse but must
	be carried forward into subsequent fiscal years to be expended
8	for the purposes of this resolve.
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	SUMMARY
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This resolve requires the Department of Mental Health,

Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Office of
Substance Abuse to enter into a contract for short-term

stabilization services in a secure facility in the
Lewiston-Auburn area. Persons needing stabilization because of

substance abuse would use these facilities rather than hospital
emergency rooms, as in current practice.