

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1567

H.P. 1092

House of Representatives, March 20, 2007

**Resolve, To Demonstrate Cost Savings by Preventing the Onset of
Severe Mental Illness in Youth**

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative EBERLE of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland and
Representatives: ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft, BLISS of South Portland, CRAVEN of Lewiston,
HINCK of Portland, MILLER of Somerville, PERRY of Calais, Senators: BARTLETT of
Cumberland, SCHNEIDER of Penobscot.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the State has the responsibility to provide treatment and care for its
4 citizens with severe mental illness; and

5 **Whereas,** that responsibility is a considerable financial burden to the citizens of the
6 State; and

7 **Whereas,** the Portland Identification and Early Referral Program, referred to in this
8 resolve as "PIER," at Maine Medical Center has conducted a research project that has
9 indicated that a large proportion of adolescents and young adults within PIER who are at
10 high risk for severe mental illness, including mental illness that begins with an episode of
11 psychosis, have not had the onset of psychosis at the expected rate; and

12 **Whereas,** such prevention of psychosis is associated with a much reduced degree of
13 disability in youth in academic, social and vocational activities; and

14 **Whereas,** the rate of new cases of psychosis with hospitalizations is rising across
15 the State, except in the area served by PIER; and

16 **Whereas,** this increased rate will lead directly to an increased financial and social
17 burden to the State; and

18 **Whereas,** PIER has documented substantial savings for the costs of psychiatric
19 hospitalizations for the greater Portland area for the past five years; and

20 **Whereas,** there is a need to determine if the increase of young people developing a
21 severe psychotic mental illness being seen in the State can be prevented; and

22 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
23 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
24 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 **Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to initiate**
27 **demonstration program. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human
28 Services shall:

29 1. Initiate a demonstration program to determine whether the methods used by PIER
30 can have the effect of preventing a substantial number of new cases of psychosis and
31 psychotic disorders in young people from 12 years of age to 25 years of age; and

32 2. Provide financial resources to PIER to continue to prevent new cases of psychosis
33 and psychotic disorders in the greater Portland area and provide training and consultation
34 necessary to ensure that a new program developed in the State will be as effective and
35 reliable as PIER; and be it further

