

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 576

H.P. 414

House of Representatives, February 17, 2009

**Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services
and the Maine State Housing Authority To Create Efficiencies in
Existing Services for Persons Who Are Homeless**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Newfield.
Cosponsored by President MITCHELL of Kennebec and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, CROCKETT of Augusta, HASKELL of Portland,
Speaker PINGREE of North Haven, Senators: BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, HOBBS of
York, MILLS of Somerset, PERRY of Penobscot.

1 **Sec. 1. Convene working group. Resolved:** That the Department of Health
2 and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," and the Maine State
3 Housing Authority, referred to in this resolve as "the authority," shall convene a working
4 group consisting of representatives of the department, the authority, the Statewide
5 Homeless Council under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 202, subchapter
6 5-A and providers of emergency shelter for persons who are homeless to review the
7 services delivered to persons who are homeless, with the purpose of creating efficiencies
8 while maintaining flexibility. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the
9 director of the authority shall name 2 cochairs to convene and lead the working group.
10 One chair must represent the department and one chair must represent the authority. The
11 cochairs shall select 7 to 9 members for the working group based on criteria established
12 by the department and the authority; and be it further

13 **Sec. 2. Review. Resolved:** That the working group under section 1 shall review
14 all programs and services for persons who are homeless managed by the authority,
15 including the Continuums of Care, the Homeless Management Information System,
16 emergency shelter grants and the shelter operating subsidy program, and those managed
17 by the department, including all homeless housing development and subsidy programs,
18 resources and services presently operated by the department, including Shelter Plus Care
19 and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program.

20 In conducting its review, the working group shall:

21 1. Identify a strategy to monitor the progress of integrating the resources, services and
22 persons who are homeless into the existing structures, in an effort to ensure that persons
23 who are homeless receive the services for which they are entitled in a timely fashion;

24 2. Advise the Legislature regarding the progress of its efforts and recommend further
25 organizational adjustments necessary to create efficiencies in the delivery of services to
26 persons who are homeless; and

27 3. Ensure that the Legislature is provided with timely and accurate information
28 regarding the integration of services for persons who are homeless into the existing
29 structure and service mix; and be it further

30 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That, by January 1, 2010, the department and the
31 authority shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services the
32 findings and recommendations of the working group under section 1, including any
33 necessary implementing legislation; and be it further

34 **Sec. 4. Legislation. Resolved:** That, after receipt and review of the report and
35 recommendations submitted pursuant to section 3, the Joint Standing Committee on
36 Health and Human Services may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the
37 124th Legislature.

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SUMMARY

2 This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine
3 State Housing Authority to convene a working group to review the services delivered to
4 persons who are homeless, with the purpose of creating efficiencies while maintaining
5 flexibility. The department and the authority shall submit a report to the Joint Standing
6 Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2010. The Joint Standing
7 Committee on Health and Human Services may submit legislation to the Second Regular
8 Session of the 124th Legislature.