

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1376

H.P. 966

House of Representatives, April 2, 2009

**Resolve, To Reduce Homelessness for People with Mental Illness or
Dual Diagnoses**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative ADAMS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative STUCKEY of Portland.

1 **Sec. 1. Definitions. Resolved:** As used in this resolve, the following terms have
2 the following meanings:

3 **1. Client.** "Client" means a person from the target population who participates in the
4 program;

5 **2. Program.** "Program" means a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of a
6 strategy to end homelessness for individuals in the target population by providing stable
7 housing and long-term support; and

8 **3. Target population.** "Target population" means the population of homeless
9 individuals in the State who have been diagnosed with mental illness or dually diagnosed
10 with mental illness and chemical dependency; and be it further

11 **Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to conduct pilot
12 program. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall
13 conduct the program and make the program a priority when directing rental assistance
14 resources; and be it further

15 **Sec. 3. Program goals. Resolved:** That the program's goal is to provide
16 permanent housing and an adequate support network for the target population through
17 caseworkers engaging and providing case management and support for the target
18 population. A caseworker may have no more than 20 clients and will provide services in
19 a fluid manner, beginning with emergency crisis services for each client and following
20 each client into the community, consistent with Maine's Plan to End and Prevent
21 Homelessness adopted March 11, 2008 by the Maine State Housing Authority's Statewide
22 Homeless Council; and be it further

23 **Sec. 4. Program details. Resolved:** That the program will last 2 years and serve
24 180 clients who live in both urban and rural settings with 9 caseworkers who will be
25 assigned 20 clients apiece. The caseworkers shall place each client in stable housing by
26 distributing to each client a rental assistance voucher provided by the Maine State
27 Housing Authority, the Department of Health and Human Services, the United States
28 Department of Housing and Urban Development or any other entity. After placing a
29 client in housing, the caseworker shall provide outreach and support to maintain the
30 stability of the client's housing and serve other issues that the client may have for the term
31 of the pilot program. The program shall place one caseworker each in Presque Isle,
32 Bangor, Lewiston, Augusta, Waterville, York and the Greater Portland area and 2
33 caseworkers in Portland; and be it further

34 **Sec. 5. Rules. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services
35 may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this resolve. Rules adopted pursuant to this
36 section are routine technical rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter
37 375, subchapter 2-A.

1

SUMMARY

2 This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a 2-
3 year pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of placing homeless individuals who
4 have been diagnosed with mental illness or dually diagnosed with mental illness and
5 chemical dependency in stable housing and providing long-term support in accordance
6 with Maine's Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness adopted March 11, 2008 by the
7 Maine State Housing Authority's Statewide Homeless Council. The program involves 9
8 caseworkers serving 20 clients each in finding the clients stable housing using rental
9 assistance vouchers and continuing outreach and support to the clients for the term of the
10 program.