

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 967

Date: 5/31/11

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

125TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 711, L.D. 967, Bill, "An Act To Cut the Cost of Behavioral Health Care in Hospital Emergency Rooms and To Enhance Access to Peer Support and Community-based Services"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, To Study the Cost of Providing Behavioral Health Care and Substance Abuse Services'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. Review of emergency department usage. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall consult with agencies and entities that possess relevant data regarding usage of hospital services and shall determine, on an annual basis, the number and percentage of persons who present at hospital emergency departments with behavioral health or substance abuse issues and the number and percentage of persons who present at hospital emergency departments for only behavioral health or substance abuse issues and the number and percentage of those persons who could be served through more appropriate community-based services; and be it further

Sec. 2. Work with stakeholders. Resolved: That the department shall work with a broad group of stakeholders to determine the reasons that persons present at hospital emergency departments for only behavioral health or substance abuse issues, the barriers to care that prevent them from seeking care from more appropriate community-based services and the estimated potential cost savings associated with shifting care from hospital emergency departments to community-based services; and be it further

Sec. 3. Review best practice models. Resolved: That the department shall review best practice models for training emergency department personnel, for triage to determine appropriate care settings and, when appropriate, for diverting care to community-based services for persons who present for only behavioral health or substance abuse issues. The department shall pay special attention to consumer

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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1 preference; peer support services; sharing of assessments, information and records among
2 community-based services and hospitals; licensing, regulatory and contractual changes
3 required for diversion to community-based services; and innovations to address the
4 requirements of the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act; and be
5 it further

6 **Sec. 4. Report; recommendations. Resolved:** That, by March 1, 2012, the
7 department shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
8 recommendations for augmented community-based services, including peer support
9 services, in at least 2 different best practice models for service delivery that could be
10 funded by the cost savings identified in section 2 resulting from diversion from hospital
11 emergency departments of cases better served through community-based services.'

12

SUMMARY

13 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. It requires the
14 Department of Health and Human Services to review the use of hospital emergency
15 departments by persons requiring only behavioral health and substance abuse services.
16 The amendment requires the department to identify care that could be delivered in
17 community-based settings, to review models for triage and diversion, to estimate
18 potential cost savings and to report recommendations by March 1, 2012 to the Joint
19 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 967

LR 1260(02)

An Act To Cut the Cost of Behavioral Health Care in Hospital Emergency Rooms and To Enhance Access to Peer Support and Community-based Services

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.