

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/14/14

L.D. 1594

(Filing No. H-683)

Majority

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1165, L.D. 1594, "Resolve, To Improve Access to Emergency Behavioral Health Services and Increase Public Safety"

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

'Resolve, To Review and Make Recommendations on Challenges, Gaps and Inefficiencies in Maine's Emergency Crisis Hotline and "Warm Line" Services'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

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

Whereas, it is imperative for the welfare of persons experiencing a crisis in their lives that the Department of Health and Human Services immediately convene a working group to review the provision of emergency crisis hotline and so-called warm line services and to make recommendations for improvements in service; and

Whereas, the working group must begin its work before the 90-day period expires in order that the working group may submit its findings and recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services no later than November 4, 2014; and

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

Sec. 1. Working group on emergency crisis hotline and "warm line" services. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall convene a working group by April 1, 2014 to review and make recommendations on challenges, gaps and inefficiencies in the State's emergency crisis hotline and "warm line" services, referred to in this resolve as "emergency crisis telephone services."

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **1. Invitation to participate.** The department shall invite the participation of
2 providers of current crisis telephone services, representatives of agencies that advocate
3 for persons with disabilities, consumers of emergency crisis telephone services and their
4 families, representatives of the law enforcement community, representatives of the
5 department, representatives of health care providers and representatives of emergency
6 medical services agencies. A majority of the working group must be consumers of
7 emergency crisis telephone services. The chair of the working group must be a consumer
8 of emergency crisis telephone services.

9 **2. Goal.** The working group shall, in its review and recommendations under
10 subsection 3, keep as the central focus the goal of ensuring that emergency crisis
11 telephone services are available statewide without interruption every day of the year in a
12 manner that provides easy access for consumers and that is consistent across the State.

13 **3. Duties.** The working group shall perform a review and make recommendations as
14 follows:

15 A. Review the current system for emergency crisis telephone services, identifying
16 challenges, gaps and inefficiencies in the current system from the perspectives of
17 consumers and their families, health care personnel, law enforcement and providers
18 of emergency crisis telephone services;

19 B. Review the report entitled "Peer and Crisis Services" prepared by the Consumer
20 Council System of Maine for the office of substance abuse and mental health services
21 within the department and incorporate suggestions from the report, as determined to
22 be appropriate, regarding the emergency crisis telephone system in the working
23 group's report under this subsection;

24 C. Review the benefits and costs of a single easily identifiable telephone number and
25 triage and dispatch system that is implemented and publicized by consumers in order
26 to minimize unnecessary use of the emergency departments of hospitals, provide the
27 most appropriate services in the most appropriate settings and use appropriate
28 community-based services;

29 D. Make recommendations for emergency crisis telephone services that achieve the
30 goal outlined in subsection 2 and use savings achieved by eliminating duplicative
31 services to pay for the emergency crisis telephone services and staff; and

32 E. Determine the necessary staffing and qualifications of staff for each component of
33 the recommended emergency crisis telephone services.

34 Upon completion of its duties under this subsection, the working group shall submit a
35 report with its findings and recommendations to the department.

36 **4. Report.** The department shall issue a report based on the findings and
37 recommendations of the working group, together with any necessary legislation, to the
38 Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by November 4, 2014 or by the
39 date that the department issues a new request for proposals for emergency crisis
40 telephone services during 2014, whichever date comes first.

41 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
42 legislation takes effect when approved.'

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SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment replaces the resolve with a resolve directing the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a working group. The working group is required to review the current system for emergency crisis hotline and so-called warm line services and review the report entitled "Peer and Crisis Services" prepared by the Consumer Council System of Maine for the department's office of substance abuse and mental health services and incorporate suggestions from the report in the working group's findings and recommendations. The working group is required to review the benefits and costs of a single easily identifiable telephone number and triage and dispatch system, make recommendations for emergency crisis services hotline and "warm line" services and determine the necessary staffing. The working group is also required to report its findings and recommendations to the department, and the department is required to report those findings and recommendations, together with any necessary legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by November 4, 2014 or by the date that the department issues a new request for proposals for emergency crisis services in 2014, whichever date comes first.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 03/06/14 *MAC*

126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1594

LR 2534(02)

Resolve, To Improve Access to Emergency Behavioral Health Services and Increase Public Safety

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-683)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs for the Department of Health and Human Services are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.