



## **126th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014**

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1594

H.P. 1165

House of Representatives, December 30, 2013

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

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 23, 2013. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. Mac Jarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative DORNEY of Norridgewock. Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, MALABY of Hancock, MARKS of Pittston, Senators: GERZOFSKY of Cumberland, HASKELL of Cumberland. 1 Sec. 1. Toll-free crisis call-in number. Resolved: That the Commissioner of 2 Health and Human Services shall combine all of the Department of Health and Human 3 Services' toll-free emergency crisis telephone lines under one toll-free crisis call-in number. The toll-free crisis call-in number must be staffed by trained personnel who are 4 5 able to provide immediate initial assistance and can refer callers to area mobile crisis units or a peer-staffed warm line as needed. The toll-free crisis call-in number must have 6 7 coverage 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. For purposes of this section, "peer-staffed warm line" means a telephone line that provides assistance to people whose needs are not 8 9 urgent and that is staffed by persons with relevant personal experience; and be it further

10 Sec. 2. Administrative savings. Resolved: That any administrative savings 11 realized under section 1 must be used to fund a public information advertisement 12 campaign to inform the public about the new toll-free crisis call-in number. Any excess 13 savings must be credited to the General Fund.

14 SUMMARY
15 This resolve requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to combine
16 all of the Department of Health and Human Services' toll-free emergency crisis telephone
17 lines under one toll-free crisis call-in number to be staffed by trained personnel who will
18 assist callers or refer callers to other services as appropriate 24 hours per day, 7 days per
19 week. Any money saved must be used to fund a public information advertisement
20 campaign to inform the public about the new toll-free crisis call-in number.