

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1367

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H.P. 944

House of Representatives, April 6, 2017

**Resolve, To Support Family-directed Housing Initiatives and  
Alternative Programming for Individuals with Disabilities in  
Underserved Areas**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MALABY of Hancock.  
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and  
Representatives: CHACE of Durham, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HAWKE of Boothbay  
Harbor, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, O'CONNOR of Berwick.

1           **Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to develop pilot**  
2 **projects. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall work  
3 with community partners to develop pilot projects, referred to in this resolve as "the pilot  
4 projects," to establish residences for up to 10 individuals in each facility for individuals  
5 with intellectual disabilities eligible for services under its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare  
6 Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Section 20, 21 or 29 or other applicable sections for  
7 the population's needs. The pilot projects must be developed in rural areas of the State  
8 that are underserved in terms of residential services for individuals with intellectual  
9 disabilities and serve local residents. The department shall support private fund-raising  
10 by local communities. The department shall develop contracts with local entities to  
11 determine the individuals to be served, make referrals and either carry out day-to-day  
12 functions or manage a contract for those services. The pilot projects must assist the  
13 eligible individuals to build independent lives, including employment opportunities and  
14 community participation, in a residence in or near their home community in a place with  
15 modern facilities and communal spaces and served by skilled staff; and be it further

16           **Sec. 2. Local funding. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human  
17 Services shall work with local entities to leverage private funding to contribute to the  
18 development of the pilot projects; and be it further

19           **Sec. 3. Increased MaineCare rates. Resolved:** That the Department of Health  
20 and Human Services shall consider the need for increasing reimbursement rates for the  
21 pilot projects above the existing reimbursement rates for services provided under its rule  
22 Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Section 20, 21 or 29 or  
23 other applicable sections for the population's needs in order to attract service providers in  
24 rural underserved areas. The department shall seek any authorizations necessary from the  
25 federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
26 Services to reimburse at increased rates; and be it further

27           **Sec. 4. Reporting. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human  
28 Services shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction  
29 over health and human services matters no later than January 1, 2020. The report must  
30 report progress on implementing the pilot projects and include the following measures:  
31 the number of facilities created, the number of individuals served in the pilot projects and  
32 evidence of improving services in a previously underserved area; expenditures on the  
33 pilot projects; pilot project cost comparisons with services received by similar individuals  
34 under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and  
35 III, Section 20, 21 or 29 and other related sections in other areas of the State; project  
36 outcome measures including average hours per week of community-based employment,  
37 income from employment, average hours per week volunteering in the local community  
38 and hours per week learning new skills and assessed in service plans; and any  
39 recommendations regarding the applicability of the pilot projects for future service  
40 models for similar populations around the State. The joint standing committee of the  
41 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to  
42 report out a bill to the Legislature regarding the recommendations in the report.

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## SUMMARY

2           This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to work with  
3 community partners to develop pilot projects for residential facilities that each serve up to  
4 10 individuals with intellectual disabilities eligible for services under its rule Chapter  
5 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Section 20, 21 or 29 or other  
6 applicable sections for the population's needs. The department shall support private fund-  
7 raising by the local communities and develop contracts with local entities to determine  
8 admission standards, make referrals and either directly provide day-to-day services or  
9 contract for them. The department shall consider the need to increase reimbursement  
10 under MaineCare for applicable services to counter high costs in underserved rural areas.  
11 The department must report by January 1, 2020 on the progress of the pilot projects,  
12 number of facilities created, number of individuals served, expenditures, cost  
13 comparisons and outcome measures together with any recommendations regarding  
14 applicability of the pilot projects as a model for similar future projects around the State.