

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

Legislative Document

No. 1682

S.P. 618

In Senate, December 22, 2017

An Act To Ensure the Quality of and Increase Access to Recovery Residences

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

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative VACHON of Scarborough and
Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, MAKER of Washington, MILLETT of Cumberland,
Representatives: BICKFORD of Auburn, FARNSWORTH of Portland, FAY of Raymond,
GATTINE of Westbrook, HILLIARD of Belgrade.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §20005, sub-§20**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 674, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **20. Review policies.** Review the full range of public policies and strategies existing
5 in State Government to identify changes that would strengthen its response, identify
6 policies that might discourage excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs and
7 generate new funding for alcohol and other drug services; and

8 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §20005, sub-§21**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 674, §2, is amended
9 to read:

10 **21. List of banned performance-enhancing substances.** Develop and maintain a
11 list of banned performance-enhancing substances in accordance with Title 20-A, section
12 6621-; and

13 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §20005, sub-§22** is enacted to read:

14 **22. Recovery residence standards.** Establish by rule standards for recovery
15 residences based on standards established by a national alliance for recovery residences.
16 For the purposes of this subsection, "recovery residence" means a group residence
17 providing an alcohol-free and drug-free environment for persons recovering from
18 substance use disorders. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical
19 rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

20 **Sec. 4. 34-B MRSA §3011**, as corrected by RR 2017, c. 1, §31, is amended to
21 read:

22 **§3011. Bridging Rental Assistance Program**

23 The Bridging Rental Assistance Program is established within the department as a
24 transitional housing voucher program. The purpose of the program is to assist persons
25 with mental illness with housing assistance for up to 24 months or until they receive
26 assistance from a housing voucher program administered by the United States
27 Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of
28 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8 or receive an alternative housing
29 placement. The program may also assist persons with substance use disorders involving
30 opioids with housing placement in recovery residences the department has determined
31 meet the standards established pursuant to Title 5, section 20005, subsection 22. For the
32 purposes of this section, "recovery residence" means a group residence providing an
33 alcohol-free and drug-free environment for persons recovering from substance use
34 disorders. The department shall adopt rules to carry out the purpose of the program.
35 Rules relating to recovery residences must allow for the sharing of rooms by residents.
36 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
37 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

38 **Sec. 5. Rulemaking; recovery residence standards.** The Department of
39 Health and Human Services shall base the recovery residence standards established

1 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 20005, subsection 22 on the
2 national standards established by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences.

3

SUMMARY

4 This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish standards
5 for recovery residences based on standards established by the National Alliance for
6 Recovery Residences. It also authorizes the Bridging Rental Assistance Program to assist
7 persons with substance use disorders involving opioids with housing placement in
8 recovery residences, including residences in which residents share rooms.