

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1005

H.P. 747

House of Representatives, February 26, 2019

**Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Project To Save Lives and Support
People with Substance Use Disorder in Washington County**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, JAVNER of Chester, NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy
Tribe, STOVER of Boothbay, TUELL of East Machias.

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

3 **Whereas,** substance use disorder is a crisis in Washington County requiring a
4 systems approach to combat the issue; and

5 **Whereas,** a pilot project in Washington County developed without the need for state
6 General Fund money must be evaluated and provide data allowing for replication in other
7 rural areas of the State; and

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

12 **Sec. 1. Washington County Substance Use Disorder Pilot Project**
13 **established. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall
14 establish the Washington County Substance Use Disorder Pilot Project, referred to in this
15 resolve as "the pilot project," to develop a systems approach to providing services in a
16 rural area for residents of Washington County with substance use disorder through
17 helping to coordinate service needs among organizations and providers to help bridge any
18 gaps in services and ultimately assisting individuals in accessing treatment and recovery
19 services when the individuals are ready. The department shall work with Healthy Acadia
20 as the lead agency in Washington County for developing the pilot project. The
21 department shall provide advice and assistance to Healthy Acadia in applying for federal
22 grant funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services,
23 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to fund the pilot project,
24 including any requests for proposals required by this resolve.

25 **Sec. 2. Telephone system. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and
26 Human Services shall work with Healthy Acadia to establish a central coordinating
27 telephone system located in Washington County no later than October 1, 2019. The
28 department may expand an existing hotline or use some other strategy to establish the
29 telephone system. The telephone system must be staffed at all times so that it is available
30 at any time to any person in Washington County. The telephone system must be made
31 widely available to organizations in Washington County, including law enforcement,
32 medical and emergency personnel, public officials, educational staff and members of the
33 public, to connect those in need of substance use disorder treatment with counseling,
34 referral services, peer services and recovery coaches and other related assistance.
35 Telephone system staff answering the telephone calls must be qualified to provide
36 counseling in addition to referral services. The department and the coordinating council
37 shall develop a system that coordinates the central coordinating telephone system with the
38 State's 2-1-1 system to ensure maximum access for any person who calls the telephone
39 system. The coordinating council shall determine a method to collect data relating to
40 calls received by the telephone system.

41 **Sec. 3. Washington County Coordinating Council. Resolved:** That the
42 Department of Health and Human Services shall work with Healthy Acadia to establish

1 and support the Washington County Coordinating Council, referred to in this resolve as
2 "the coordinating council," consisting of up to 15 members representing the community
3 and organizations in Washington County and surrounding areas involved in substance use
4 disorder prevention, treatment and recovery, including a representative from Healthy
5 Acadia as lead agency; a representative from the Department of Health and Human
6 Services; members of organizations representing health care, including primary care,
7 emergency care, hospitals, mental health agencies and providers of substance use disorder
8 treatment, including faith-based treatment; members of law enforcement, including
9 county jails; organizations involved in education, prevention and advocacy; a person
10 involved in the local business community; and persons in recovery living in the area. The
11 coordinating council shall choose a chair to preside over meetings, and it shall meet at
12 least once every 2 months. The Department of Health and Human Services shall work
13 with Healthy Acadia to ensure that an executive assistant coordinates record keeping and
14 meetings and other administrative tasks. The coordinating council shall coordinate
15 services in the pilot project, including access to the telephone system established pursuant
16 to section 2 and accuracy of information relating to services, medication-assisted
17 treatment, detoxification, residential and other treatment services, peer recovery and
18 coaching services, education programs in schools, pain and chronic disease self-
19 management classes, jail treatment programs and other programs as well as tracking
20 barriers to treatment and recovery, facilitating system improvements to reduce or
21 eliminate identified barriers and implementing the recovery resource fund pursuant to
22 section 4.

23 **Sec. 4. Recovery resource fund. Resolved:** That the Department of Health
24 and Human Services shall assist the coordinating council with developing a recovery
25 resource fund offering flexible funds as part of a wraparound continuum of supports and
26 services to increase success for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder. The
27 use of the fund is in accordance with the United States Department of Health and Human
28 Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration requirements,
29 with an individualized approach, building on family strengths and filling gaps in the
30 system of care to purchase goods and services not otherwise available to the family. The
31 coordinating council shall implement and administer the fund, including recovery
32 coaches or other similar persons in the process, and work with organizations and
33 volunteers to secure additional funding. Payments from the fund are disbursed directly to
34 providers of services and not as cash payments to the individual in recovery.

35 **Sec. 5. Peer services and recovery coaching. Resolved:** That the
36 Department of Health and Human Services shall establish and support recovery coaching
37 services to individuals with substance use disorder and to the families of those individuals
38 in Washington County. A coordinator chosen by the coordinating council shall assist in
39 developing, training and establishing peer supports and recovery coaches who provide
40 volunteer services around Washington County, including ensuring that peers and
41 recovery coaches are connected to persons in treatment and recovery, including through
42 the telephone system established pursuant to section 2, and that peers and recovery
43 coaches are available at all times, and in keeping track of the system of peers and
44 recovery coaches. The department and the coordinator chosen by the coordinating
45 council shall endeavor to provide assistance to volunteers such as recruiting, training,

1 transportation assistance, facilitating connections to community organizations and other
2 assistance.

3 **Sec. 6. Evaluation program. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and
4 Human Services shall provide a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
5 Human Services no later than November 30, 2020 outlining the planning and
6 implementation of the pilot project, services provided pursuant to the pilot project, details
7 regarding funding expenditures, quantitative and qualitative evaluation, including data
8 collected from the telephone system, and replicability of the pilot project. The joint
9 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services
10 matters may report out legislation associated with the report to the First Regular Session
11 of the 130th Legislature.

12 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
13 legislation takes effect when approved.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This resolve establishes a pilot project in Washington County to provide treatment
16 and recovery services for people with substance use disorder. The pilot project is
17 established under the Department of Health and Human Services. The department is
18 required to work with Healthy Acadia to develop the pilot project. The department is
19 required to assist Healthy Acadia with seeking federal funding for the pilot project. The
20 pilot project requires the establishment of a central coordinating telephone system
21 available to anyone in Washington County at any time to assist individuals with accessing
22 services related to substance use disorder treatment and recovery. Individuals receiving
23 the phone calls must be qualified to provide counseling services to all callers in addition
24 to providing referrals. The pilot project establishes a coordinating council made up of
25 representatives of the community and organizations in the area involved in the health and
26 welfare of Washington County residents. The council is responsible for providing a
27 coordinated system of services for substance use disorder prevention, treatment and
28 recovery and for developing and implementing a recovery resource fund to provide
29 additional individualized services as part of a wraparound continuum of support and
30 services. It requires the department to report on the pilot project to the joint standing
31 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters
32 no later than November 30, 2020.