

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

---

Legislative Document

No. 1146

---

H.P. 835

House of Representatives, March 7, 2019

**An Act To Ensure the Provision of Housing Navigation Services to  
Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities**

---

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.  
Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec and  
Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, FAY of Raymond, GATTINE of Westbrook,  
HUTCHINS of Penobscot, STOVER of Boothbay, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: DAVIS  
of Piscataquis, LAWRENCE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5106, sub-§13**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. BB, §9, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 **13. Coordinate activities.** Coordinate activities and cooperate with programs in this  
5 and other states for the common advancement of programs for Maine's aging population  
6 and incapacitated and dependent adults; ~~and~~

7 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5106, sub-§14-A** is enacted to read:

8 **14-A. Housing navigator.** Support and maintain a housing navigator under section  
9 5107-K; and

10 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §5107-K** is enacted to read:

11 **§5107-K. Housing navigator**

12 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
13 following terms have the following meanings.

14 A. "Home repair, modification and weatherization services" means services,  
15 materials and programs available to make a residence safe, warm, dry and efficient,  
16 including repairs to the physical structure, the installation of safety equipment,  
17 including bathroom grab bars, improved lighting and smoke and carbon monoxide  
18 detectors, weatherization services and the installation of energy-efficient lighting  
19 fixtures.

20 B. "Housing navigation assistance" means assistance with:

21 (1) Finding affordable home repair, modification and weatherization services;

22 (2) Finding affordable and adequate alternative housing options, including  
23 housing with services;

24 (3) Managing a transition between housing settings; and

25 (4) Accessing information and resources regarding housing and transitioning  
26 housing.

27 C. "Qualified person" means a person with a disability or a person 60 years of age or  
28 older.

29 **2. Housing navigator.** There is established within the department the position of  
30 housing navigator. The housing navigator:

31 A. Provides housing navigation assistance to qualified persons;

32 B. Collaborates with other state agencies, aging and disability service providers and  
33 organizations and others to develop, maintain, update and make publicly available  
34 information and resources regarding housing navigation assistance; and

35 C. Identifies gaps in housing assistance needs of qualified persons and periodically  
36 submits a report on any gaps to the director of the department's office of aging and

1 disability services for inclusion in the state plan on aging under section 5106,  
2 subsection 4.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill creates within the Department of Health and Human Services a housing  
5 navigator who:

6 1. Assists disabled and elderly persons in locating housing, transitioning between  
7 housing settings and accessing home repair and home modification services and  
8 materials;

9 2. Maintains and makes publicly available housing assistance information and  
10 resources; and

11 3. Identifies gaps in housing assistance needs of elderly persons and persons with  
12 disabilities and periodically submits a report on the gaps to the director of the Department  
13 of Health and Human Services' office of aging and disability services for inclusion in the  
14 state plan on aging.