

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EMC
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L.D. 964

Date: 6-3-21

(Filing No. H-393)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 130TH LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 710, L.D. 964, "An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services"

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 3-A in §20057 in the first indented paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Recovery" and inserting the following: "Beginning July 1, 2022, recovery"

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 3-A in §20057 in subsection 2 in the first line (page 1, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Any" and inserting the following: "To the extent not in conflict with federal law, any"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4309, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Eligibility; recovery residence; exception. The overseer in a municipality may not deny general assistance to a person for the sole reason that the person is residing in a recovery residence. Beginning July 1, 2022, a municipality may not provide housing assistance to a person residing in a recovery residence that has not been certified in accordance with Title 5, section 20005, subsection 22, except that the person may receive housing assistance while residing in an uncertified recovery residence for one 30-day period only and the overseer shall inform the person of the requirements of this subsection. A person who is ineligible for housing assistance under this subsection may remain eligible to receive general assistance for other basic necessities.

Sec. 4. Recovery residence assistance levels; rulemaking. No later than July 1, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rule, Chapter 323: Maine General Assistance Manual, to establish appropriate maximum housing assistance levels for eligible persons residing in recovery residences that take into account any additional costs of providing recovery residences as well as the fair market rents established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development used to establish maximum housing assistance levels under the program including those for other shared housing arrangements.

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Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Z199**

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the contract for certification of the recovery residences.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$256,913
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$256,913

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It requires recovery residences to be certified in order to receive contracts from the Department of Health and Human Services or housing assistance or vouchers for persons eligible for general assistance, as of July 1, 2022.
2. It clarifies that any housing assistance or vouchers provided through the Maine State Housing Authority provided to a person recovering from substance use disorder under the bill does not conflict with federal law.
3. It allows a person residing in a recovery residence that is not certified to receive housing assistance in the general assistance program for one 30-day period and requires the overseer of the municipality to inform the person that the law requires certification of the recovery residence for housing assistance in the general assistance program.
4. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to change its rules to establish appropriate maximum housing assistance levels for eligible persons residing in recovery residences that take into account the additional costs of providing recovery residences compared to other shared housing arrangements as well as the fair market rents established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development that are used to establish maximum housing assistance levels under the general assistance program.

The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 964

LR 1237(02)

An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-393)*

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$256,913	\$256,913	\$256,913
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$256,913	\$256,913	\$256,913

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes on-going General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$256,913 beginning in fiscal year 2022-23 to increase the contract for certification of the recovery residences.

Additional costs to the Maine State Housing Authority associated with the provisions in this legislation can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.