

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

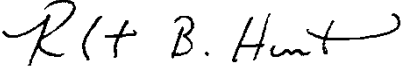
No. 964

H.P. 710

House of Representatives, March 9, 2021

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

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTEAU of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec and
Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, MADIGAN of Waterville, PICKETT of Dixfield,
WARREN of Hallowell, Senator: MAXMIN of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 521, sub-c. 3-A** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 3-A**

4 **RECOVERY**

5 **§20057. Certified recovery residences**

6 Recovery residences must be certified pursuant to the requirements established in
7 section 20005, subsection 22, to receive:

8 **1. Contracts.** Any department contract for a recovery residence or services related to
9 the recovery residence; or

10 **2. Housing assistance.** Any housing assistance or voucher provided by the
11 department, the Maine State Housing Authority or a municipality provided to or for the
12 person recovering from substance use disorder.

13 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

14 **14. Recovery residence.** "Recovery residence" has the same meaning as in Title 5,
15 section 20003, subsection 19-D.

16 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4305, sub-§3-E** is enacted to read:

17 **3-E. Recovery residence.** Municipalities may not deny general assistance to a person
18 for the sole reason that the person is residing in a recovery residence. Notwithstanding
19 subsection 3-A, municipalities shall establish the maximum levels of assistance for a person
20 residing in a recovery residence in the same manner as for any other person seeking
21 assistance. Maximum levels for housing assistance for the costs of the recovery residence
22 apply in the same manner as maximum levels of housing assistance established in this
23 section as long as the recovery residence has been certified in accordance with Title 5,
24 section 20005, subsection 22. A municipality may not provide housing assistance to a
25 person in a recovery residence that has not been certified, but the person may remain
26 eligible to receive general assistance for other basic necessities that are included in the
27 municipal ordinance.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill requires recovery residences to be certified according to the standards set by
30 a nationally recognized organization that supports persons recovering from substance use
31 disorder in order to receive contracts from the department or receive housing vouchers or
32 municipal general assistance housing assistance from a person living in a recovery
33 residence. The bill also prevents an applicant for general assistance from being denied
34 general assistance for the sole reason that the person is living in a recovery residence. The
35 bill requires the costs of living in a recovery residence to be calculated in the same manner
36 as for other housing assistance when maximum amounts of general assistance under the
37 municipal ordinance and the amount of general assistance granted to the applicant are
38 established.