

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 81

H.P. 51

House of Representatives, January 4, 2023

An Act to Address Recovery Residence Participation in the Municipal General Assistance Program

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§8-B** is enacted to read:

3 **8-B. Landlord.** "Landlord" means a person who owns a property and allows another
4 person to use that property in return for payment.

5 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§11-A** is enacted to read:

6 **11-A. Operator.** "Operator" means the lawful owner of a recovery residence or an
7 individual or company designated by the lawful owner to have primary responsibility for
8 the day-to-day operations of the recovery residence and for acquiring and maintaining
9 certification pursuant to Title 5, section 20005, subsection 22 of the recovery residence in
10 order to receive housing assistance payments through the general assistance program.

11 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4309, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 472, §3, is amended to
12 read:

13 **6. Eligibility; recovery residence; exception.** The overseer in a municipality may
14 not deny general assistance to a person for the sole reason that the person is residing in a
15 recovery residence. Beginning July 1, 2022, a municipality may not provide housing
16 assistance to a person residing in a recovery residence that has not been certified in
17 accordance with Title 5, section 20005, subsection 22, except that the person may receive
18 housing assistance while residing in an uncertified recovery residence for one 30-day
19 period only and the overseer shall inform the person of the requirements of this subsection.
20 A person who is ineligible for housing assistance under this subsection may remain eligible
21 to receive general assistance for other basic necessities. Upon request by a person residing
22 in a certified recovery residence who has been determined eligible for housing assistance,
23 a municipality shall issue a housing assistance payment to the operator of the certified
24 recovery residence instead of to a landlord.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill requires a municipality to issue a general assistance housing assistance
27 payment to the operator of a certified recovery residence upon request by an eligible person
28 rather than to a landlord, including a property owner.