

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1377

H.P. 891

House of Representatives, March 28, 2023

An Act to Provide Rental Assistance for Recovery Housing

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and
Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, GOLEK of
Harpwell, O'NEIL of Saco, OSHER of Orono, RANA of Bangor, SHEEHAN of Biddeford,
Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §20058** is enacted to read:

3 **§20058. Recovery residence rental assistance program**

4 **1. Recovery residence rental assistance program.** The recovery residence rental
5 assistance program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established to provide
6 assistance for rental fees for eligible individuals to reside in a certified recovery residence
7 under section 20057. The department shall contract with a nonprofit organization in the
8 State that manages ethical and safety standards and certifies recovery residences to
9 administer the program. At least 50% of assistance provided under the program must be
10 provided to individuals who are members of marginalized groups, including but not limited
11 to Black, indigenous or other persons of color, persons with differences in mental or
12 physical abilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

13 **2. Eligibility.** The program must provide assistance under subsection 1 for an amount
14 equal to up to 3 months' rent in a certified recovery residence for an individual who:

15 A. Has been accepted to reside or resides in a certified recovery residence; and

16 B. Has an income that is equal to or less than the federal poverty level.

17 **3. Recovery residence rental assistance fund.** The recovery residence rental
18 assistance fund is established and administered by the department to support the program.
19 Assistance under the program must be disbursed directly from the fund to the certified
20 recovery residence for an eligible individual under subsection 2 approved for the program.
21 The fund is funded by appropriations, allocations and other public and private sources. The
22 fund may be interest-bearing and interest accrued on money in the fund accrues to the fund.
23 The fund does not lapse but carries over to the next fiscal year.

24 **4. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
25 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules under chapter 375,
26 subchapter 2-A.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill creates the recovery residence rental assistance program and fund to provide
29 rental assistance for up to 3 months in a certified recovery residence for an individual
30 accepted to reside in or who resides in a certified recovery residence and who has an income
31 at or below the federal poverty level. The program is required to provide at least 50% of
32 the assistance to individuals who are members of marginalized groups, including but not
33 limited to Black, indigenous or other persons of color, persons with differences in mental
34 or physical abilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.