

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/14/23

L D 1857  
(Filing No H- 539)

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P. 1187, L D 1857, "An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following

**'Resolve, to Establish a Public Safety Health and Wellness Grant Pilot Program'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following

**'Sec. 1. Department of Public Safety to establish public safety health and wellness grant pilot program. Resolved:** That the Department of Public Safety shall establish a 2-year public safety health and wellness grant pilot program, referred to in this resolve as "the pilot program," to provide grants to government entities for the purpose of providing public safety employees with wellness visits or specialized cardiac and metabolic screenings that specifically address the physical or mental health effects experienced by public safety employees. Services provided under the pilot program may not supplant existing behavioral, mental or physical health care benefit packages and must supplement existing programs. For the purposes of this resolve, the following terms have the following meanings

1 "Government entity" means the State or a municipality, plantation or county

2 "Public safety agency" means a department or other agency of a government entity that provides or has the authority to provide fire, emergency medical, emergency communications, correctional or police services

3 "Public safety employee" means an employee of a public safety agency

**Sec. 2. Programs to address physical and mental health effects experienced by public safety employees. Resolved:** That a government entity may apply for a grant under the pilot program for any group of public safety employees as long as services are provided to all public safety employees of the public safety agency within that group, wherever located. Applications by a government entity must include at least one of the 2 following screening programs.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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1           1 Specialized cardiac and metabolic screening that provides a medical consultation  
2 and an individualized plan including nutrition, fitness and wellness recommendations to  
3 the employee when appropriate. The results of the screening and any advice for the  
4 continued treatment of identified health issues must be provided to the employee and the  
5 employee's physician. Testing must include the following:

- 6           A. An advanced lipid panel, including a cardiac inflammatory biomarker analysis,
- 7           B. Screening for liver and kidney function,
- 8           C. Screening for thyroid, prostate and other cancers or diseases that are prevalent  
9 among first responders at a higher rate than the civilian population, such as diabetes,  
10 and

11           D. Cardiologist-guided, public safety-specific, cardio-metabolic stress testing, and  
12           2 Annual wellness visits that provide confidential visits with qualified mental health  
13 professionals who have experience with the cumulative impact of exposure to traumatic  
14 events and specialized knowledge of public safety psychology. Options for referrals to  
15 additional counseling services, inpatient services or specialists for the participating  
16 employee or employee's immediate family must be available.

17           Unless otherwise provided by law, services provided under this section may not be  
18 used as a basis for employment termination.

19           **Sec. 3. Confidentiality. Resolved:** That all health care information of an  
20 employee is confidential as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1711-  
21 C. If wellness visits are mandated as a condition of employment by a public safety agency,  
22 only confirmation of attendance may be shared by a health care provider with the agency.

23           **Sec. 4. Administration costs. Resolved:** That a government entity that receives  
24 a grant under the pilot program may use up to 5% of the grant funding to administer the  
25 grant.

26           **Sec. 5. Reporting. Resolved:** That the Department of Public Safety shall ensure  
27 that government entities receiving grants provide to the department detailed anonymized  
28 information on the number of public safety employees who participated in the pilot  
29 program, the types of services provided to those employees and any outcome data that can  
30 be provided to show effectiveness of the pilot program. The Department of Public Safety  
31 shall submit a report no later than January 10, 2026 to the joint standing committee of the  
32 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint  
33 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public  
34 safety matters with the number of grants disbursed, the number of public safety employees  
35 served, the types of services provided and outcome data on the effectiveness of the  
36 program.

37           **Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following  
38 appropriations and allocations are made:

39           **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**  
40           **Administration - Public Safety 0088**

41           Initiative Provides a one-time appropriation for a 2-year grant program for the purpose of  
42 providing physical and mental health services specific to public safety employees.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to HP 1187, L D 1857

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|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>GENERAL FUND</b>       | <b>2023-24</b>     | <b>2024-25</b> |
| All Other                 | \$2,000,000        | \$0            |
| <b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b> | <u>\$2,000,000</u> | <u>\$0</u>     |

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

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The bill establishes an ongoing program funded by a portion of sales tax on adult use cannabis and adult use cannabis products. The amendment instead establishes a 2-year pilot program using General Fund money for the same purpose of providing physical and mental health services specific to public safety employees as in the bill and for the same population of public safety employees as in the bill.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1857

LR 2345(02)

## An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-539)  
Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

|                                   | FY 2023-24  | FY 2024-25 | Projections<br>FY 2025-26 | Projections<br>FY 2026-27 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>         |             |            |                           |                           |
| General Fund                      | \$2,000,000 | \$0        | \$0                       | \$0                       |
| <b>Appropriations/Allocations</b> |             |            |                           |                           |
| General Fund                      | \$2,000,000 | \$0        | \$0                       | \$0                       |

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 to the Department of Public Safety for a two-year grant program for the purpose of providing physical and mental health services specific to public safety employees