

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/25/24

L.D. 2136
(Filing No. H-862)

HOUSING

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1360, L.D. 2136, "An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals"

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

'An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals and Establish a Stakeholder Group to Develop a 10-year Plan to Address the Root Causes of Homelessness'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'PART A

Sec. A-1. Maine State Housing Authority to amend rules. The Maine State Housing Authority shall amend the relevant portions of its rule Chapter 19: Homeless Solutions Rule to ensure that \$2,500,000, or an equivalent percentage of the funds appropriated for the shelter operation subsidy under section 2, is reserved exclusively for distribution to low-barrier shelters.

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE
Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the operation of homeless shelters pursuant to Maine State Housing Authority rule Chapter 19: Homeless Solutions Rule.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| All Other | \$0 | \$10,000,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <hr/> \$0 | <hr/> \$10,000,000 |
| Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661 | | |

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1360, L.D. 2136

| | | | |
|----|---|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for distribution to low-barrier shelters as in Maine State | | |
| 2 | Housing Authority rule Chapter 19: Homeless Solutions Rule. | | |
| 3 | GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 4 | All Other | \$0 | \$2,500,000 |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$2,500,000</u> |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE | | |
| 9 | DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | GENERAL FUND | \$0 | \$12,500,000 |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$12,500,000</u> |

PART B

Sec. B-1. Statewide Homeless Council to convene stakeholder group. The Statewide Homeless Council, as established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-L, subsection 13, referred to in this Part as "the council," shall convene a stakeholder group of no less than 13 and no more than 15 members to develop a 10-year plan to address the root causes of homelessness in the State. Members of the stakeholder group must represent or include the following:

1. Professionals who operate or manage shelters for unhoused individuals, such as chief executive officers or executive directors;
2. At least one person employed by a shelter for unhoused individuals in charge of maintenance or facilities management;
3. Professionals employed by shelters for unhoused individuals, including those with experience providing assistance and counseling to individuals with the goal of attaining stable housing, sometimes referred to as "transitional lifestyle counselors";
4. Professionals with experience providing substance use disorder and mental health counseling to unhoused individuals;
5. The Executive Director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the executive director's designee; and
6. Representatives of municipal and county law enforcement.

Sec. B-2. Stakeholder group duties. The stakeholder group under section 1 shall:

1. Examine the root causes of homelessness by gathering information from a wide variety of professionals and volunteers who provide hands-on services to individuals in need of emergency shelter services;
2. Study successful efforts in other states to reduce the demand for emergency shelter services;
3. Consult with experts in the fields of substance use disorder, mental health and homelessness; affordable housing developers in the State; and persons who have recovered

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



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from homelessness and found stable housing to identify the key elements of successful transition into stable housing; and

4. Develop the framework for a 10-year plan to significantly reduce the number of residents of the State who need emergency shelter services.

Sec. B-3. Meetings of stakeholder group. The stakeholder group under section 1 shall meet at least 4 times before submission of the report required by section 4. Members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing must be notified of all meetings of the stakeholder group.

Sec. B-4. Report. No later than November 6, 2024, the council shall submit a report that includes the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group under section 1 to the Joint Select Committee on Housing, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment increases the ongoing appropriation to support emergency shelter operations in the bill from \$10,000,000 to \$12,500,000 and requires the Maine State Housing Authority to reserve \$2,500,000 annually exclusively for distribution to low-barrier emergency shelters. The amendment requires the Statewide Homeless Council to convene a stakeholder group to develop a 10-year plan to address the root causes of homelessness. The stakeholder group is required to notify the Joint Select Committee on Housing of all meetings of the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group is required to hold at least 4 meetings prior to the council's submitting a report to the Joint Select Committee on Housing by November 6, 2024. The amendment also requires the Maine State Housing Authority to amend its rules to ensure that \$2,500,000, or an equivalent percentage of the funds appropriated for the shelter operation subsidy, is reserved exclusively for distribution to low-barrier shelters.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2136

LR 2714(02)

An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-862)

Committee: Housing

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

| | FY 2023-24 | FY 2024-25 | Projections FY 2025-26 | Projections FY 2026-27 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Net Cost (Savings) | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$12,500,000 | \$12,500,000 | \$12,500,000 |
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$12,500,000 | \$12,500,000 | \$12,500,000 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations totaling \$12,500,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2024-25 to the Shelter Operating Subsidy program within the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) to support emergency shelter operations. Of this amount, \$10,000,000 is appropriated on an ongoing basis for the operation of homeless shelters and \$2,500,000 is appropriated on an ongoing basis for low-barrier shelters.

Additional costs to MSHA associated with the rulemaking process and with supporting the Statewide Homeless Council in its work to develop a 10-year plan to address the root causes of homelessness in Maine can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.