

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

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Legislative Document

No. 2138

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H.P. 1362

House of Representatives, January 3, 2024

### Resolve, to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.  
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and  
Representatives: RANA of Bangor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WHITE of  
Waterville.

1           **Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to raise overnight bed**  
2 **rate for low-barrier shelters. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human  
3 Services shall increase its overnight bed rate of reimbursement for low-barrier shelters to  
4 \$90 per night. For purposes of this section, "low-barrier shelter" means a shelter that has  
5 no or minimal requirements for entry and does not require a criminal background check, a  
6 credit check, participation in a program, sobriety or identification in order for a person to  
7 stay in the shelter.

8           **Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to pursue waiver.**  
9 **Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall pursue a waiver from  
10 the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and  
11 Medicaid Services to access Medicaid funds to serve unhoused persons with substance use  
12 disorder or mental health disorders or who are elderly persons with medical needs or  
13 persons with disabilities with medical needs.

#### 14                               SUMMARY

15           This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to increase its  
16 overnight bed rate of reimbursement for low-barrier shelters to \$90 per night. It also directs  
17 the Department of Health and Human Services to pursue a waiver from the United States  
18 Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
19 to access Medicaid funds to serve unhoused persons with substance use disorder or mental  
20 health disorders or who are elderly persons with medical needs or persons with disabilities  
21 with medical needs.