



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1201

H.P. 879

House of Representatives, March 22, 2021

**Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Engage
Stakeholders in an Examination of Fair Chance Housing Policy
Options**

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 18, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

1 **Sec. 1. Fair chance housing examination. Resolved:** That the Maine State
2 Housing Authority shall in collaboration with stakeholders examine fair chance housing
3 policies considered or adopted in other jurisdictions. This examination must consider
4 policies that may be adopted in the State to address housing issues for formerly incarcerated
5 individuals and to expand housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals
6 without creating an excessive burden for housing providers.

7 The authority shall invite stakeholders that include but are not limited to:

- 8 1. Formerly incarcerated individuals;
- 9 2. Housing providers that own, lease or manage residential housing units that:
 - 10 A. Are owned or subsidized by the Federal Government or the State; or
 - 11 B. Are financed in whole or part by government subsidies or tax credits;
- 12 3. Landlords or representatives of statewide organizations representing landowners
13 and property managers;
- 14 4. Representatives from a statewide organization that represents the interests of
15 currently incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals;
- 16 5. Representatives from a statewide civil legal aid and economic justice organization;
- 17 6. Representatives of civil rights organizations whose primary mission is racial equity
18 and justice; and
- 19 7. Representatives of organizations that advocate for residents of the State in the
20 following areas:
 - 21 A. Disability rights;
 - 22 B. Mental health;
 - 23 C. Substance use disorder and recovery; and
 - 24 D. Homelessness.

25 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That no later than February 15, 2022 the Maine State
26 Housing Authority shall submit a report that includes findings and recommendations to the
27 Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. The report must include a summary of
28 any meetings that occur pursuant to section 1, a list of participants in the examination of
29 fair chance housing policies, suggestions to increase the awareness among housing
30 providers of the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in finding housing
31 and any other relevant information. The report may include suggested legislation. The
32 Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing may report out legislation to the Second
33 Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.

34 SUMMARY

35 This resolve directs the Maine State Housing Authority in collaboration with
36 stakeholders to examine fair chance housing policies considered or adopted in other
37 jurisdictions to evaluate options for the State to adopt that would address housing issues
38 and expand housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals without placing an
39 excessive burden on housing providers. It requires the authority to submit a report to the
40 Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing that includes findings and

1 recommendations and includes a summary of any meetings that occur regarding the
2 examination, a list of participants in the examination, suggestions to increase the awareness
3 among housing providers of the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in
4 finding housing and any other relevant information. It allows the authority to include
5 suggested legislation in its report. Lastly, it allows the Joint Standing Committee on Labor
6 and Housing to report out legislation based on the report.