

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 349 - L.D. 475

Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated homelessness for the most frequent users of high-cost services, such as psychiatric hospitals, emergency shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails and prisons; and

Whereas, this legislation establishes the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative, which will develop a plan to provide stable housing and community services to 200 persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are frequent users of high-cost services; and

Whereas, establishing this collaborative as soon as possible will help to put the stable housing and community services plan in place earlier; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative established.

Resolved: That the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative, referred to in this resolve as "the collaborative," is established.

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the collaborative consists of the director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the director's designee, who shall serve as chair, and other members appointed by the director as follows:

1. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
2. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
3. One member representing the Statewide Homeless Council;
4. One member representing the Maine Sheriffs' Association;
5. One member representing providers of emergency health services;

6. One member representing municipal officers;
7. One member representing a psychiatric hospital;
8. One member representing providers of community-based behavioral health services; and
9. Any other members with relevant expertise as determined by the director and the members.

In appointing members to the collaborative, the director shall ensure that the members represent a wide geographic area of the State.

Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved: That the collaborative shall develop a plan to provide stable housing and community services to 200 persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are the most frequent consumers of high-cost services, such as psychiatric hospitals, emergency shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails and prisons.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2022, the collaborative shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The report must include the collaborative's plan to provide stable housing and community services developed pursuant to section 3, including the cost savings that could be achieved by reductions in the use of high-cost services and any recommendations developed by the collaborative on providing stable housing and community services to persons consuming high-cost services. The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature related to the report.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.