

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

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

**'Resolve, To Study the Impact of Social Services and
Corrections Policies on Homeless People in Maine'**

Amend the resolve in the emergency preamble by striking out all of the 2nd and 3rd indented paragraphs (page 1, lines 3 to 7 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'Whereas, this resolve directs the Statewide Homeless Council to coordinate a study of the connection between the increasing numbers of homeless persons in the State, and the existing policies and procedures employed by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections that may affect homeless persons and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services in time for legislative action during the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature; and'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the emergency preamble and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1 Study. Resolved: That the Statewide Homeless Council established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 202, subchapter 5-A shall coordinate a study of the connections between social services, corrections and homelessness and shall submit the results of the study and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15, 2008. The study must include a review of best practices for homeless shelters and current practices used by social services and corrections agencies and facilities, including discharge practices, the rights and responsibilities of persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders and best practices for housing and supportive services. The Statewide Homeless Council shall invite the participation of representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services including the Office of Substance Abuse, the Department of Corrections, the Maine State Housing Authority, representatives of hospitals in the State, statewide organizations representing homeless persons, representatives of community mental health provider agencies, homeless service providers and persons with mental illness, persons with substance abuse issues and other interested parties. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation during the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature pertaining to the study.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the resolve. It directs the Statewide Homeless Council to coordinate a study of the connection between the increasing numbers of homeless persons in the State and the existing policies and procedures employed by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections that may affect homeless persons. The study must include a review of best practices for homeless shelters and current practices used by social services and corrections agencies and facilities, including discharge practices, the rights and responsibilities of persons with

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mental illness and co-occurring disorders and best practices for housing and supportive services. The Statewide Homeless Council shall invite the participation of representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services including the Office of Substance Abuse, the Department of Corrections, the Maine State Housing Authority, representatives of hospitals in the State, statewide organizations representing homeless persons, representatives of community mental health provider agencies, homeless service providers and persons with mental illness, persons with substance abuse issues and other interested parties. The Statewide Homeless Council is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15, 2008.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)