



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 475

H.P. 349

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

**Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement
Collaborative**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services 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 MORALES of South Portland.

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

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

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

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

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

16 **Sec. 1. Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative established.**
17 **Resolved:** That the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative, referred to in this
18 resolve as "the collaborative," is established.

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

- 22 1. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
- 23 2. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
- 24 3. One member representing the Statewide Homeless Council;
- 25 4. One member representing the Maine Sheriffs' Association;
- 26 5. One member representing providers of emergency health services; and
- 27 6. Any other members with relevant expertise as determined by the director.

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

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

