



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 842

H.P. 576

House of Representatives, March 10, 2015

An Act To Establish Peer Center Reimbursement

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative STUCKEY of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CHIPMAN of Portland, DOORE of Augusta, ROTUNDO of Lewiston,
Senators: GRATWICK of Penobscot, SAVIELLO of Franklin, WOODSOME of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3613** is enacted to read:

3 **§3613. Compensation for peer centers**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Peer center" means an entity or an organization with a contract with the
7 department to provide peer services. "Peer center" may include but is not limited to a
8 recovery club, a support organization or a self-help group.

9 B. "Peer services" means services by trained peers or a peer-managed organization
10 focused on helping individuals with mental health conditions and other conditions
11 that may co-occur with a mental health condition to support recovery.

12 **2. Compensation; rules.** A peer center must be reimbursed at a rate established by
13 the department pursuant to this subsection. The department may not establish a so-called
14 "flat rate." This subsection applies to all funds, including federal funds, paid by any
15 agency of the State to a peer center. The department shall establish rules concerning
16 reimbursement that:

17 A. Take into account the costs of providing services in conformity with applicable
18 state and federal laws, rules, regulations and quality and safety standards;

19 B. Are reasonable and adequate to meet the costs incurred by efficiently and
20 economically operated peer centers; and

21 C. Contain an annual inflation adjustment that:

22 (1) Recognizes regional variations in labor costs and the rates of increase in
23 labor costs determined pursuant to the principles of reimbursement and
24 establishes at least 4 regions in the State for purposes of annual inflation
25 adjustments; and

26 (2) Uses the applicable regional inflation factor as established by a national
27 economic research organization selected by the department to adjust costs other
28 than labor costs or fixed costs.

29 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
30 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish
33 reimbursement rates for peer centers.