



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1146

H.P. 835

House of Representatives, March 7, 2019

**An Act To Ensure the Provision of Housing Navigation Services to
Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities**

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 McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec and
Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, FAY of Raymond, GATTINE of Westbrook,
HUTCHINS of Penobscot, STOVER of Boothbay, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: DAVIS
of Piscataquis, LAWRENCE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5106, sub-§13**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. BB, §9, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **13. Coordinate activities.** Coordinate activities and cooperate with programs in this
5 and other states for the common advancement of programs for Maine's aging population
6 and incapacitated and dependent adults; ~~and~~

7 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5106, sub-§14-A** is enacted to read:

8 **14-A. Housing navigator.** Support and maintain a housing navigator under section
9 5107-K; and

10 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §5107-K** is enacted to read:

11 **§5107-K. Housing navigator**

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

14 A. "Home repair, modification and weatherization services" means services,
15 materials and programs available to make a residence safe, warm, dry and efficient,
16 including repairs to the physical structure, the installation of safety equipment,
17 including bathroom grab bars, improved lighting and smoke and carbon monoxide
18 detectors, weatherization services and the installation of energy-efficient lighting
19 fixtures.

20 B. "Housing navigation assistance" means assistance with:

21 (1) Finding affordable home repair, modification and weatherization services;

22 (2) Finding affordable and adequate alternative housing options, including
23 housing with services;

24 (3) Managing a transition between housing settings; and

25 (4) Accessing information and resources regarding housing and transitioning
26 housing.

27 C. "Qualified person" means a person with a disability or a person 60 years of age or
28 older.

29 **2. Housing navigator.** There is established within the department the position of
30 housing navigator. The housing navigator:

31 A. Provides housing navigation assistance to qualified persons;

32 B. Collaborates with other state agencies, aging and disability service providers and
33 organizations and others to develop, maintain, update and make publicly available
34 information and resources regarding housing navigation assistance; and

35 C. Identifies gaps in housing assistance needs of qualified persons and periodically
36 submits a report on any gaps to the director of the department's office of aging and

