

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document	No. 2138

H.P. 1362

House of Representatives, January 3, 2024

Resolve, to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville. Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: RANA of Bangor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WHITE of Waterville. 1 Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to raise overnight bed 2 rate for low-barrier shelters. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human 3 Services shall increase its overnight bed rate of reimbursement for low-barrier shelters to 4 \$90 per night. For purposes of this section, "low-barrier shelter" means a shelter that has 5 no or minimal requirements for entry and does not require a criminal background check, a 6 credit check, participation in a program, sobriety or identification in order for a person to 7 stay in the shelter.

8 Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to pursue waiver. 9 Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall pursue a waiver from 10 the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and 11 Medicaid Services to access Medicaid funds to serve unhoused persons with substance use 12 disorder or mental health disorders or who are elderly persons with medical needs or 13 persons with disabilities with medical needs.

SUMMARY

15 This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to increase its 16 overnight bed rate of reimbursement for low-barrier shelters to \$90 per night. It also directs 17 the Department of Health and Human Services to pursue a waiver from the United States 18 Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 19 to access Medicaid funds to serve unhoused persons with substance use disorder or mental 20 health disorders or who are elderly persons with medical needs or persons with disabilities 21 with medical needs.

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