



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

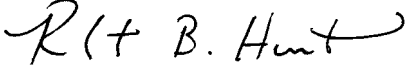
No. 1261

H.P. 836

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

**An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community
Navigator Pilot Program**

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MEYER of
Eliot, MOONEN of Portland, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator:
PIERCE of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3877** is enacted to read:

3 **§3877. Community Navigator Pilot Program**

4 The Community Navigator Pilot Program, referred to in this section as "the pilot
5 program," is established within the department as a 2-year pilot program to award contracts
6 through the department to 4 child abuse and neglect prevention councils selected by the
7 department for 4 community navigators.

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

10 A. "Community services" means services that provide assistance to individuals or
11 families, including but not limited to the following services: physical and mental health
12 care; housing assistance; food access assistance; fuel assistance; child care;
13 transportation; employment training; and substance use disorder treatment.

14 B. "Mandated reporter" means an adult person required pursuant to section 4011-A,
15 subsection 1 to report or cause a report to be made to the department when the person
16 knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused
17 or neglected or that a suspicious child death has occurred.

18 C. "Screened out," with respect to a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, means
19 the department has determined that the report does not meet the department's criteria
20 to open a child protective services investigation.

21 **2. Community navigator; service population.** A community navigator under the pilot
22 program shall work with the following populations:

23 A. Families that have been reported to the department for suspected child abuse or
24 neglect, and the report was screened out, but the families would likely benefit from
25 available community services for support and to prevent the need for intervention by
26 child protective services in the future;

27 B. Mandated reporters that reported to the department a family described in paragraph
28 A; and

29 C. Mandated reporters generally, including, but not limited to, teachers, social workers
30 and medical professionals.

31 **3. Services provided by community navigator.** This subsection governs the services
32 provided by a community navigator under the pilot program.

33 A. A community navigator shall work with a family described in subsection 2,
34 paragraph A to connect that family with appropriate community services. When
35 appropriate, the community navigator may involve in this process the mandated
36 reporter that reported the suspected child abuse or neglect, including, but not limited
37 to, the child's teacher or social worker.

38 B. A community navigator shall engage in outreach activities to provide education and
39 guidance to mandated reporters designed to:

40 (1) Improve mandated reporters' knowledge of available community services and
41 other resources;

