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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 751, L.D. 1910, “An Act to Strengthen Housing Stability Services by Increasing Support and Outreach”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

Whereas, the State continues to face unprecedented homelessness; and

Whereas, Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part AAAA established the Housing First Program to facilitate the delivery of support and stabilization services to persons experiencing chronic homelessness in the State; and

Whereas, among the services allowed through the Housing First Program were housing stability services that provide outreach to persons experiencing chronic homelessness for purposes of establishing connections and providing support that may result in securing stable housing; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 20-A, subsection 4, paragraph A requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually deposit \$1,000,000 in the fund to support the Housing First Program to provide housing stability services, and the department has not yet contracted for those services to be provided; and

Whereas, continued delays in delivery of help to persons experiencing chronic homelessness creates unnecessary hardships for not only the person but the person's community; and

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

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **'Sec. 4. Department of Health and Human Services; report.** By September 1,
 2 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the Joint
 3 Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development with details on the delivery
 4 of housing stability support services required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22,
 5 section 20-A and the requests for proposals required in sections 2 and 3 of this Act. The
 6 committee is authorized to report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular
 7 Session of the 132nd Legislature.

8 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 9 allocations are made.

10 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

11 **Housing First Program Z374**

12 Initiative: Provides funding to contract with community-based nonprofit organizations to
 13 hire 9 outreach caseworkers.

14 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
15 All Other	\$800,000	\$800,000
16		
17 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$800,000</u>	<u>\$800,000</u>

18 **Housing First Program Z374**

19 Initiative: Provides funding to contract with community-based nonprofit organizations to
 20 hire 9 housing stability workers.

21 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
22 All Other	\$900,000	\$900,000
23		
24 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$900,000</u>	<u>\$900,000</u>

26 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
 27 DEPARTMENT OF
 28 DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

29	2025-26	2026-27
30 GENERAL FUND	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000
31		
32 DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$1,700,000</u>	<u>\$1,700,000</u>

33
 34 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

35 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
 36 takes effect when approved.'

37 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
 38 number to read consecutively.

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SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill. It adds a requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development by September 1, 2025, with details on the delivery of housing stability support services required by the Housing First Program and the requests for proposals process required by this legislation. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. The amendment also replaces the appropriations and allocations section to correct a program name and number.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)