



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 81

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H.P. 47

House of Representatives, January 13, 2021

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### **An Act To Ensure the Safety of Children Experiencing Homelessness by Extending Shelter Placement Periods**

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Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Received by the Clerk of the House on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on  
Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint  
Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §8101, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 179, §7, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Emergency children's shelter.** "Emergency children's shelter" means a facility  
5 that operates to receive children 24 hours a day and that limits placement to ~~30~~ 60  
6 consecutive days or less. For purposes of this section, the definition of "children" includes  
7 a person under 21 years of age. "Emergency children's shelter" does not mean a family  
8 foster home or specialized children's home. If emergency shelter is a service provided by  
9 a children's residential care facility, the service is restricted to a designated physical area  
10 of the facility.

11 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §8101, sub-§4-A**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 179, §7, is further  
12 amended to read:

13 **4-A. Shelter for homeless children.** "Shelter for homeless children" means a facility  
14 designed to provide for the overnight lodging and supervision of children 10 years of age  
15 or older for no more than ~~30~~ 60 consecutive overnights. For purposes of this section, the  
16 definition of "children" includes a person under 21 years of age.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill amends the laws governing facilities for children. It amends the definition of  
19 "emergency children's shelter" to extend placement from 30 consecutive days or less to 60  
20 consecutive days or less, and it amends the definition of "shelter for homeless children" to  
21 extend the limit on overnight lodging and supervision from 30 consecutive overnights to  
22 60 consecutive overnights.