

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Support Maine People in Recovery and
Create a Substance Abuse Assistance Program'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

PART A

Sec. A-1. Department to create 3 new peer centers. The Department of Health and Human Services shall create 3 new peer centers, 2 of which will begin operation in fiscal year 2016-17 and one of which will begin operation in fiscal year 2017-18, in different parts of the State to coordinate and run peer support programs to help persons in recovery from drug addiction. In order to serve populations in rural parts of the State, 2 of these peer centers must be located in currently underserved areas that are outside of Maine's largest cities. These peer centers must be situated in geographic areas of the State different from each other and in areas different from any peer support recovery centers established pursuant to Public Law 2015, chapter 378, Part D. Funding for each peer center must be used to support the hiring of a coordinator who shall support recovery group facilitation, peer mentoring and peer recovery resource connections. The peer centers may be coordinated and housed within existing health care settings, such as a rural health care center.

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services 0679

Initiative: Provides funding to create 2 new peer centers in fiscal year 2016-17 and one new peer center in fiscal year 2017-18 in different parts of the State to coordinate and run peer support programs to help persons in recovery from drug addiction.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$0	\$400,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$400,000

PART B

Sec. B-1. 25 MRSA Pt. 13 is enacted to read:

PART 13

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSISTANCE

CHAPTER 601

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

§ 5101. Substance Abuse Assistance Program

1. Substance Abuse Assistance Program. The Substance Abuse Assistance Program, referred to in this chapter as "the program," is established to support persons with presumed substance use disorders by providing grants to municipalities and counties to carry out projects designed to reduce substance abuse, substance abuse-related crimes and recidivism.

2. Eligibility; program targets; projects. Grants may be awarded to:

A. Municipal or county governments or regional jails for projects designed to assist persons with presumed substance use disorders by diverting alleged low-level offenders into community-based treatment and support services. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Referral of program participants to evidence-based treatment programs, including medically assisted treatment; and

(2) Provision of case management services to program participants in order to secure appropriate treatment and support services such as housing, health care, job training and mental health services for program participants; and

B. County governments or regional jails for projects in county or regional jails designed to assist persons with presumed substance use disorders. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Provision of evidence-based treatment programs, including medically assisted treatment, to jail inmates; and

(2) Provision of case management or other support services to program participants to assist in transition from jail upon release.

3. Requirements. A grant application for a project described in subsection 2 must include the following:

- A. A statement of purpose and measurable goals for the project and use for the funds;
- B. The elements of the project, which must include the targeted population, the nature of services or assistance to be provided and expected outcomes;
- C. For diversion projects, a statement of the municipality's or county's diversion policy, including criteria for selecting participants for the project;
- D. A review of other substance abuse services available in the applicant municipality or county and communities adjacent to the applicant municipality or county and a statement of the unmet needs to be addressed by the project;
- E. A review of efforts to collaborate among relevant law enforcement agencies, treatment providers, harm reduction services, recovery support services and other community resources and a summary of collaborative approaches included in the project, if any; and
- F. A summary of data to be collected to assess the effectiveness of the project and the methodology that will be used to make that assessment. The data to be collected must include measurements of the long-term health, treatment and criminal justice involvement outcomes for participants and must be included in reports filed under subsection 6 as part of a rigorous evaluation process.

4. Selection of grant recipients; steering committee. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall review applications submitted by municipalities and counties for grants under this chapter. Preference must be given to collaborative approaches that include treatment providers or community-based organizations. The following steering committee shall advise the Commissioner of Public Safety in selecting grant recipients. The steering committee consists of the Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee and representatives of the following organizations, programs and associations selected by the Commissioner of Public Safety from suggestions provided by the organizations, programs and associations: a statewide organization of police chiefs; a statewide organization of sheriffs; a statewide organization representing physicians; a statewide organization representing prosecutors; a statewide organization representing providers of legal services for the indigent; peer recovery programs; and harm reduction associations.

5. Administration of funds. The policy board established in this State to carry out the State's responsibilities under the federal Justice Assistance Act of 1984, the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and the federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, known as "the Justice Assistance Council," shall administer grant funds appropriated for use under this chapter and disburse the funds to municipalities, counties and regional jails selected under subsection 4. The department may retain up to 5% of funds to cover administrative expenses.

6. Reports. A recipient of a grant under subsection 4 shall report to the Commissioner of Public Safety annually on the anniversary date of the grant award regarding the status of the project for which the grant was awarded. The report must include a description of how the grant funds were spent, the results of the project and any recommendations for modification of the project, including any available information concerning the project's effectiveness in reducing substance abuse and recidivism.

Sec. B-2. Reports to committees. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by January 15, 2017 regarding the recipients and the amounts of the grants awarded under the Substance Abuse Assistance Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, chapter 601. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall provide a report summarizing the results of the grant program and providing recommendations as to the program's continuation or modification and any need for additional funding by January 15, 2018 and January 15, 2019 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.

Sec. B-3. Pilot projects. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall implement the Substance Abuse Assistance Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 5101 by selecting, with the advice of the steering committee described in Title 25, section 5101, subsection 4, at least 8 pilot projects in communities around the State, at least 2 projects of which are administered by municipalities and at least 2 projects of which are administered by county or regional jails.

Sec. B-4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Public Safety 0088

Initiative: Provides funding for one Contract Grant Specialist position and related administrative costs to administer and oversee the Substance Abuse Assistance Program. This funding comes from the 5% allowed for administrative costs as specified in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 5101, subsection 5.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$73,898
All Other	\$0	\$3,270
 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> \$0	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> \$77,168

Administration - Public Safety 0088

Initiative: Provides funds for the Substance Abuse Assistance Program.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$0	\$1,022,832
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,022,832

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
	\$0	\$1,100,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,100,000

SUMMARY

Part A provides funding for 3 new peer centers to be created by the Department of Health and Human Services, 2 of which will begin operation in fiscal year 2016-17 and one of which will begin operation in fiscal year 2017-18. The peer centers will be in different parts of the State to coordinate and run peer support programs to help persons in recovery from drug addiction. In order to serve populations in rural parts of the State, 2 of these peer centers must be located in currently underserved areas that are outside of Maine's largest cities. Funding for each peer center must be used to support the hiring of a coordinator who must support recovery group facilitation, peer mentoring and peer recovery resource connections. The peer centers may be coordinated and housed within existing health care settings, such as a rural health care center. Part A contains an appropriation of \$400,000 to fund the peer centers.

Part B of this amendment establishes the Substance Abuse Assistance Program to provide grants to municipalities and counties to carry out projects designed to reduce substance abuse, substance abuse-related crimes and recidivism.

The Commissioner of Public Safety, in consultation with a steering committee, will select at least 8 pilot projects to receive grants. At least 2 projects must be awarded to municipalities and at least 2 projects must be awarded to counties. The steering committee that will advise in the selection of the pilot projects consists of the Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee and representatives of the following: a statewide organization of police chiefs; a statewide organization of sheriffs; a statewide organization representing physicians; a statewide organization representing prosecutors; a statewide organization representing providers of legal services to the indigent; peer recovery programs; and harm reduction associations. The Maine Justice Assistance Council will administer the grants.

The recipients of the grants must report the continuation or modification of the grant program and any need for additional funding to the Commissioner of Public Safety annually, and the commissioner must report in January 2018 and 2019 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.

The amendment includes a total appropriation of \$1,100,000 and uses \$77,168 of the total to pay for a position to administer the grants. That amount is part of the 5% that the Department of Public Safety may use for administering the grants.