

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

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

‘Sec. 1. Department to increase wages at state mental health institutions.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective at the beginning of the first pay period commencing on or after July 1, 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services shall increase wages for select personnel as specified in this section at the state mental health institutions. Wages must be increased by \$2 per hour for all Acuity Specialist positions, Licensed Practical Nurse positions, Mental Health Worker I positions, Mental Health Worker II positions and Mental Health Worker III positions. Wages must be increased by \$4 per hour for all Nurse I positions, Hospital Nurse II positions, Hospital Nurse III positions, Hospital Nurse IV positions, Psychologist III positions and Psychologist IV positions.

Sec. 2. Transfer from Salary Plan program and special account funding. The funds in the Salary Plan program, General Fund account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may be used as needed in allotment by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor to be used for the economic items contained in section 1 in fiscal year 2016-17. Positions supported from sources other than the General Fund must be funded from those other sources. Transfers from the Salary Plan program pursuant to this section may not exceed \$944,379 in fiscal year 2016-17.’

SUMMARY

This amendment strikes the bill and provides that the wages for select personnel at the state mental health institutions must be increased beginning with the first pay period commencing on or after July 1, 2016. This amendment provides for the funding of the General Fund costs of the wage increases through transfers from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Salary Plan program, General Fund account up to \$944,379 in fiscal year 2016-17.