



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 144

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H.P. 102

House of Representatives, January 19, 2017

**An Act To Create a Pilot Project To Reduce Substance Use  
Disorders among Youth in Piscataquis County To Be Used as a  
Model for All Maine Communities**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and  
Representatives: BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, DUCHESNE of Hudson, LYFORD of  
Eddington, RYKERSON of Kittery, STANLEY of Medway, STEARNS of Guilford, TUELL  
of East Machias, VACHON of Scarborough.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to establish a comprehensive, evidence-based pilot project in  
6 selected Piscataquis County communities and schools with the goal of reducing the  
7 harmful effects of substance use disorder and addiction. The pilot project will use best  
8 practices for screening high-risk children, early intervention and community and family  
9 support to prevent addiction and promote public health and safety. The pilot project must  
10 be administered by a local nonprofit entity with expertise in management and in the  
11 subject matter of the project.

12 The bill provides funding for the planning and implementation of the pilot project,  
13 including, but not limited to, funding to:

14 1. Employ one full-time person to lead and manage the implementation of the  
15 project;

16 2. Engage outside consultants with expertise in planning, evaluation, training and  
17 technical assistance;

18 3. Convene community partners to leverage local, state and federal resources;

19 4. Train school staff and others working with priority populations;

20 5. Screen and provide early intervention to children and families most at risk for  
21 substance use disorder and its related implications;

22 6. Build school and community capacity to mitigate trauma and improve resilience;  
23 and

24 7. Promote understanding of and decrease stigma surrounding substance use  
25 disorder.

26 The bill also provides funding for a professional evaluation of the pilot project and  
27 requires a report to the Legislature on the pilot project's effectiveness and ease of  
28 replication in other communities that are being affected by the opiate epidemic.