



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 540

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H.P. 345

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

**An Act to Establish Peer Respite Centers for Adults with Mental Health Challenges in Maine**

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

*Robert B. Hunt*  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: OSHER of Orono, PERRY of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA c. 3, sub-c. 3, art. 3** is enacted to read:

3 **ARTICLE 3**

4 **INTENTIONAL PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

5 **§3631. Peer respite centers**

6 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
7 following terms have the following meanings.

8 A. "Certified peer support specialist" means a peer who has successfully completed an  
9 intentional peer support training offered through the department.

10 B. "Intentional peer support" means support offered by a certified peer support  
11 specialist through a community-based and evidence-based program.

12 C. "Peer" means a person who has experience living with mental health crises,  
13 including trauma, and has experience being a consumer of the mental health system.

14 D. "Peer respite center" or "center" means a residential living environment managed  
15 and staffed by peers that offers an intentional peer support program offered by a  
16 certified peer support specialist to persons with mental health needs.

17 **2. Establishment of peer respite centers required.** The department shall establish  
18 through contracts 2 peer respite centers in the State for persons 18 years of age or older.  
19 The centers must provide 24-hour intentional peer support to persons in need of mental  
20 health services on a voluntary, short-term basis. The centers must be:

21 A. In geographically diverse locations in the State;

22 B. Located in areas of the State that have populations with a high utilization rate of  
23 crisis services, according to data maintained by the department; and

24 C. Operated by:

25 (1) A peer-run organization; or

26 (2) An organization with a board of directors or an advisory group in which 51%  
27 or more of its members are peers.

28 **3. Rulemaking.** The department shall prescribe by rule the requirements for its  
29 contracts with peer respite centers, including required data reporting or other reports to  
30 allow the department to monitor and evaluate the services provided by the centers. The  
31 department shall adopt other rules as necessary to implement this section. Rules adopted  
32 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
33 subchapter 2-A.

34 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
35 allocations are made.

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

37 **Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Z199**

1 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for 2 peer respite centers established through contracts  
2 by the Department of Health and Human Services.

3	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
4	All Other	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

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**SUMMARY**

8       This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish 2 peer  
9 respite centers in the State.