

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 802

H.P. 509

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Design a Mentoring Program for Youth Who Have Extended Care and Support Agreements with the Department

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 27, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and

Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, COPELAND of Saco, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, ROEDER of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, WEBB of Durham, ZAGER of

Portland, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland.

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services contract for mentoring program. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall contract with an independent service provider with expertise in foster care and extended care and support agreements to design a mentoring program for youth who have extended care and support agreements with the department pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4037-A. The contracted independent service provider shall research mentoring programs that are evidence-based to recommend a mentoring program model to the department. The mentoring program must include training requirements for supporting youth transitioning out of extended care and support agreements for mentors, staff and youth, as well as multiple data collection points and data analysis. The contracted independent service provider shall consult with youth who currently have extended care and support agreements or have had extended care and support agreements in the past. The contract must allow for compensation, including supplies and travel, for youth who are involved in the development of the mentoring program. The department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, no later than January 2, 2027, with recommendations for a mentoring program. The report must include the recommendations from the contracted independent service provider, descriptions of youth viewpoints and the department's response to the recommendations. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

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This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with an independent service provider to design a mentoring program for youth who have extended care and support agreements with the department. The contract includes researching mentoring programs that are evidence-based, training requirements for participants and data collection and analysis. The input of youth who have or have had extended care and support agreements must be specifically included. The department must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, no later than January 2, 2027, with recommendations for a mentoring program. The committee is authorized to report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.