



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 963

H.P. 709

House of Representatives, March 9, 2021

**An Act To Create Culturally Sensitive Treatment and Recovery
Halfway Houses for Immigrants Transitioning out of the Juvenile
Justice System**

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, MELARAGNO of Auburn,
MORALES of South Portland, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators: CLAXTON of
Androscoggin, MAXMIN of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §1402, sub-§10-A** is enacted to read:

3 **10-A. Treatment and recovery halfway houses for immigrants.** The commissioner
4 shall establish treatment and recovery halfway houses for youth in the State to provide
5 halfway house services and substance use disorder treatment, mental health treatment,
6 education and job training and employment and job opportunity services for youth
7 transitioning out of the juvenile justice system who are immigrants or whose families have
8 immigrated to the State. The commissioner shall work in partnership with a nonprofit
9 organization formed for the purpose of involving immigrants in the civic work of their
10 communities, along with other local immigrant community members and associations and
11 local, state and federal agencies to provide halfway house services and other services in a
12 culturally sensitive manner. The halfway houses must be assigned to only one gender and
13 must provide housing services, referrals to community-based services and supports and
14 education and employment resources. The halfway houses must be funded with
15 contributions from the department and with any grants, donations and private funding
16 received for this purpose.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to establish treatment and recovery
19 halfway houses for youth in the State to provide halfway house services and substance use
20 disorder treatment, mental health treatment, education and job training and employment
21 and job opportunity services for youth transitioning out of the juvenile justice system who
22 are immigrants or whose families have immigrated to the State. The commissioner is
23 directed to work in partnership with a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of
24 involving immigrants in the civic work of their communities, local immigrant community
25 members and associations and local, state and federal agencies to provide halfway house
26 services and other services in a culturally sensitive manner. The halfway houses must be
27 assigned to only one gender and must provide housing services, referrals to community-
28 based services and supports and education and employment resources. The halfway houses
29 must be funded with contributions from the Department of Corrections and with any grants,
30 donations and private funding received for this purpose.