



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 964

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H.P. 710

House of Representatives, March 9, 2021

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**An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder  
Recovery Residence Services**

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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 "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTEAU of Augusta.  
Cosponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec and  
Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, MADIGAN of Waterville, PICKETT of Dixfield,  
WARREN of Hallowell, Senator: MAXMIN of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 521, sub-c. 3-A** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 3-A**

4 **RECOVERY**

5 **§20057. Certified recovery residences**

6 Recovery residences must be certified pursuant to the requirements established in  
7 section 20005, subsection 22, to receive:

8 **1. Contracts.** Any department contract for a recovery residence or services related to  
9 the recovery residence; or

10 **2. Housing assistance.** Any housing assistance or voucher provided by the  
11 department, the Maine State Housing Authority or a municipality provided to or for the  
12 person recovering from substance use disorder.

13 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

14 **14. Recovery residence.** "Recovery residence" has the same meaning as in Title 5,  
15 section 20003, subsection 19-D.

16 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4305, sub-§3-E** is enacted to read:

17 **3-E. Recovery residence.** Municipalities may not deny general assistance to a person  
18 for the sole reason that the person is residing in a recovery residence. Notwithstanding  
19 subsection 3-A, municipalities shall establish the maximum levels of assistance for a person  
20 residing in a recovery residence in the same manner as for any other person seeking  
21 assistance. Maximum levels for housing assistance for the costs of the recovery residence  
22 apply in the same manner as maximum levels of housing assistance established in this  
23 section as long as the recovery residence has been certified in accordance with Title 5,  
24 section 20005, subsection 22. A municipality may not provide housing assistance to a  
25 person in a recovery residence that has not been certified, but the person may remain  
26 eligible to receive general assistance for other basic necessities that are included in the  
27 municipal ordinance.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill requires recovery residences to be certified according to the standards set by  
30 a nationally recognized organization that supports persons recovering from substance use  
31 disorder in order to receive contracts from the department or receive housing vouchers or  
32 municipal general assistance housing assistance from a person living in a recovery  
33 residence. The bill also prevents an applicant for general assistance from being denied  
34 general assistance for the sole reason that the person is living in a recovery residence. The  
35 bill requires the costs of living in a recovery residence to be calculated in the same manner  
36 as for other housing assistance when maximum amounts of general assistance under the  
37 municipal ordinance and the amount of general assistance granted to the applicant are  
38 established.