



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1843

H.P. 1227

House of Representatives, April 30, 2025

An Act to Provide Peer Respite for Individuals with Mental Health Care Needs

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and
Representatives: MATHIESON of Kittery, SARGENT of York, Senator: TIPPING of
Penobscot.

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

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3614 is enacted to read:

§3614. Peer respite services

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "peer respite" means a community-based model of care in which an individual in need of precrisis or crisis support can access nonclinical community mental health services from peers with lived experience in a low-barrier, comfortable and safe setting.

2. Peer respite services and center. The department shall provide peer respite services and establish one peer respite center. The center must provide 24-hour peer respite services to individuals 18 year of age or older in need of voluntary, short-term mental health services.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of Behavioral Health Z199

Initiative: Provides funding for a peer respite services program to provide short-term mental health services to adults.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$575,000	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$575,000</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide peer respite services and establish a peer respite center. The center must provide 24-hour peer respite services to individuals 18 years of age or older in need of voluntary, short-term mental health services.