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Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 609, L.D. 835, Bill, “An Act To Increase Funding for Case Managers for Veterans”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, To Extend the Pilot Program for Providing Mental Health Case Management Services to Veterans'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation extends a crucial and highly successful pilot program that provides coordinated mental health care and case management services to veterans; and

Whereas, one of the 2 regional contracts for providing these services is scheduled to expire on July 1, 2020, which will likely occur before the 90-day period expires; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Resolve 2017, c. 24, Pt. B, §1, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 2017, c. 24, Pt. B, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. B-1. Commissioner of Health and Human Services to establish pilot program to provide mental health case management services to veterans. Resolved: That, beginning January 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, referred to in this Part as "the commissioner," shall establish a pilot program to provide contracted case management services to provide necessary mental health treatment to veterans who are residents of the State. Case management services must include assisting veterans in gaining a range of mental and behavioral health services, which must include inpatient mental health care services. In establishing the pilot

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 program, the commissioner shall consult with the Director of the Maine Bureau of ~~Maine~~
2 Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency
3 Management, referred to in this Part as "the director," to identify regions where case
4 management services are most needed and to identify veterans seeking case management
5 services who are enrolled with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and
6 those who would likely be eligible to be enrolled. The pilot program described in this
7 section must continue until ~~January 1, 2020~~ June 30, 2021 or until the funds provided in
8 Part C are exhausted.

9 1. The commissioner, with the assistance of the director, shall seek to coordinate
10 services with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and state agencies that
11 offer mental health care services or provide assistance to veterans.

12 2. The commissioner may enter into regional contracts, including a contract with a
13 provider that has experience providing services in northern Maine, for the purpose of
14 ensuring a statewide network of case management that provides coordinated mental
15 health care services for Maine veterans, including, but not limited to, inpatient treatment
16 as clinically required.

17 3. The commissioner, with the assistance of the director, shall establish criteria to
18 determine eligibility for case management services to be provided in accordance with this
19 section. A veteran who has received a mental health diagnosis or mental health disability
20 rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs must be considered eligible
21 for case management services. A veteran who is not enrolled with the United States
22 Department of Veterans Affairs who is determined to require mental health care services
23 by a licensed mental health professional may be considered eligible for case management
24 and other behavioral health services based on the individual needs of the veteran.

25 4. The director shall work to assist veterans receiving case management services
26 under the pilot program who are not enrolled with the United States Department of
27 Veterans Affairs to determine eligibility and to assist with those veterans' enrollment and
28 with filing claims to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

29 5. Case management and mental health professionals selected to participate in the
30 pilot program must demonstrate military and veteran cultural competency.

31 6. An individual who served in the United States Armed Forces and meets the
32 federal definition of veteran or who has served or is currently serving in the Maine Army
33 National Guard or Air National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces
34 is eligible. Character of discharge is not a disqualifying eligibility criterion.

35 7. All veterans participating in the pilot program must be accounted for in the
36 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of ~~Maine~~
37 Veterans' Services and the Department of Health and Human Services data collections.

38 8. ~~Upon conclusion of the pilot program~~ By February 1, 2021, the commissioner, in
39 consultation with the director, shall prepare a written report of the services provided and
40 make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
41 jurisdiction over veterans affairs if appropriate; and be it further

42 **Sec. 2. Resolve 2017, c. 24, Pt. C, §2, enacted. Resolved:** That Resolve 2017,
43 c. 24, Pt. C, §2 is enacted to read:

1 **Sec. C-2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
 2 appropriations and allocations are made.

3 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
 4 **Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund Z261**

5 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a new contract for case management services for
 6 veterans in Aroostook and Washington counties through June 30, 2021.

7	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
8	All Other	\$0	\$200,000
9			
10	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

11 **Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund Z261**

12 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to continue current contracts for case management
 13 services for veterans through June 30, 2021.

14	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
15	All Other	\$0	\$118,056
16			
17	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$118,056

18	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
19	DEPARTMENT OF		
20	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2019-20	2020-21
21			
22	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$318,056
23			
24	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$318,056

25 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
 26 appropriations and allocations are made.

27 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
 28 **Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund Z261**

29 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a new contract for case management services for
 30 veterans in Aroostook and Washington counties through June 30, 2021.

31	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
32	All Other	\$0	\$200,000
33			

1 GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$200,000

2 **Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund Z261**

3 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to continue current contracts for case management
4 services for veterans through June 30, 2021.

5	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
6	All Other	\$0	\$118,056
7			
8	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$118,056</u>

9	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
10	DEPARTMENT OF		
11	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2019-20	2020-21
12			
13	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$318,056
14			
15	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$318,056</u>

16 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
17 legislation takes effect when approved.'

18 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
19 section number to read consecutively.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, replaces the bill,
22 which is a concept draft, with a resolve that extends until June 30, 2021 the pilot program
23 for providing mental health case management services to veterans established in Resolve
24 2017, chapter 24, Part B, section 1 and expands the pilot program to include a service
25 provider with experience in northern Maine. The amendment also adds an appropriations
26 and allocations section and an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

27 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

28 **(See attached)**