

Date:

(Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 132ND LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 836, L.D. 1261, “An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community Navigator Pilot Program”

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

'Resolve, to Establish the Community Navigator Pilot Program to Support At-risk Families'

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

'Sec. 1. Community Navigator Pilot Program. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall contract with 2 child abuse and neglect prevention councils under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1057 to establish a 2-year pilot program, the Community Navigator Pilot Program, referred to in this resolve as "the pilot program," for 2 community navigators. In developing the contracts, the department shall determine which 2 child abuse and neglect prevention councils are prepared to participate in the pilot program and ensure that one child abuse and neglect prevention council is in a northern part of the State and the other is in a southern part of the State. The department shall provide funding for each community navigator in the amount of \$90,000 per community navigator, per year, for both year one and year 2 of the pilot program. The department shall award the contracts no later than July 1, 2026, and the pilot program may not last longer than 2 years. The contracts must include mechanisms for identifying families in need of services from community navigators and for information sharing between community navigators and families.

Sec. 2. Services provided by community navigators to mandated reporters. Resolved: That a community navigator under the pilot program shall engage in outreach activities to provide education and guidance to mandated reporters, as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4011-A, subsection 1. Education and guidance include improving mandated reporters' knowledge of available services and resources for families, educating mandated reporters on how to refer families to services where those families live and providing guidelines for mandated reporters to work directly with families rather than only reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

Sec. 3. Community navigators to connect and refer screened-out families to community services. Resolved: That a community navigator under the pilot program shall connect and refer screened-out families to community services. A screened-out family is a family for which there was a report to the department for suspected child abuse or neglect but the department determined that the report of suspected child abuse or neglect did not meet the department's criteria to open a child protective services investigation. Community navigators shall connect and refer to community services screened-out families that would likely benefit from community services for support to prevent the need for intervention by child protective services in the future. Those community services may include, but are not limited to, physical and mental health care, housing assistance, food access assistance, fuel assistance, child care, transportation, employment training and substance use disorder treatment.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0137**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a 2-year pilot program to award contracts to 2 child abuse and neglect prevention councils in this State for a community navigator position within each council.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$127,800	\$127,800
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$127,800	\$127,800
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$52,200	\$52,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$52,200	\$52,000

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. Like the bill, it establishes a 2-year pilot program requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with child abuse and neglect prevention councils for community navigators to provide support to families in need and provide guidance to mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect. The amendment changes the number of contracts for community navigators in the pilot program from 4 to 2 and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with one child abuse and neglect prevention council in the northern part of the State and one in the southern part of the State. The amendment clarifies that the contracts between the department and the councils must include mechanisms for identifying families in need of community services and for sharing information between community navigators

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and families. It changes the date of the beginning of the pilot program from December 1, 2025 to July 1, 2026.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)