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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HOUSING

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1360, L.D. 2136, “An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals”

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

'An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals and Establish a Stakeholder Group to Develop a 10-year Plan to Address the Root Causes of Homelessness'

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

'PART A

Sec. A-1. Maine State Housing Authority to amend rules. The Maine State Housing Authority shall amend the relevant portions of its rule Chapter 19: Homeless Solutions Rule to ensure that \$2,500,000, or an equivalent percentage of the funds appropriated for the shelter operation subsidy under section 2, is reserved exclusively for distribution to low-barrier shelters.

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

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the operation of homeless shelters pursuant to Maine State Housing Authority rule Chapter 19: Homeless Solutions Rule.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$10,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$0	\$10,000,000

Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for distribution to low-barrier shelters as in Maine State
 2 Housing Authority rule Chapter 19: Homeless Solutions Rule.

3	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
4	All Other	\$0	\$2,500,000
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,500,000</u>
7			
8	HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE		
9	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
10			
11	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$12,500,000
12			
13	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$12,500,000</u>

14 **PART B**

15 **Sec. B-1. Statewide Homeless Council to convene stakeholder group.** The
 16 Statewide Homeless Council, as established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section
 17 12004-L, subsection 13, referred to in this Part as "the council," shall convene a stakeholder
 18 group of no less than 13 and no more than 15 members to develop a 10-year plan to address
 19 the root causes of homelessness in the State. Members of the stakeholder group must
 20 represent or include the following:

- 21 1. Professionals who operate or manage shelters for unhoused individuals, such as
 22 chief executive officers or executive directors;
- 23 2. At least one person employed by a shelter for unhoused individuals in charge of
 24 maintenance or facilities management;
- 25 3. Professionals employed by shelters for unhoused individuals, including those with
 26 experience providing assistance and counseling to individuals with the goal of attaining
 27 stable housing, sometimes referred to as "transitional lifestyle counselors";
- 28 4. Professionals with experience providing substance use disorder and mental health
 29 counseling to unhoused individuals;
- 30 5. The Executive Director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the executive
 31 director's designee; and
- 32 6. Representatives of municipal and county law enforcement.

33 **Sec. B-2. Stakeholder group duties.** The stakeholder group under section 1 shall:

- 34 1. Examine the root causes of homelessness by gathering information from a wide
 35 variety of professionals and volunteers who provide hands-on services to individuals in
 36 need of emergency shelter services;
- 37 2. Study successful efforts in other states to reduce the demand for emergency shelter
 38 services;
- 39 3. Consult with experts in the fields of substance use disorder, mental health and
 40 homelessness; affordable housing developers in the State; and persons who have recovered

1 from homelessness and found stable housing to identify the key elements of successful
2 transition into stable housing; and

3 4. Develop the framework for a 10-year plan to significantly reduce the number of
4 residents of the State who need emergency shelter services.

5 **Sec. B-3. Meetings of stakeholder group.** The stakeholder group under section
6 1 shall meet at least 4 times before submission of the report required by section 4. Members
7 of the Joint Select Committee on Housing must be notified of all meetings of the
8 stakeholder group.

9 **Sec. B-4. Report.** No later than November 6, 2024, the council shall submit a report
10 that includes the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group under section 1
11 to the Joint Select Committee on Housing, including suggested legislation, for presentation
12 to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.'

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

15 SUMMARY

16 This amendment increases the ongoing appropriation to support emergency shelter
17 operations in the bill from \$10,000,000 to \$12,500,000 and requires the Maine State
18 Housing Authority to reserve \$2,500,000 annually exclusively for distribution to low-
19 barrier emergency shelters. The amendment requires the Statewide Homeless Council to
20 convene a stakeholder group to develop a 10-year plan to address the root causes of
21 homelessness. The stakeholder group is required to notify the Joint Select Committee on
22 Housing of all meetings of the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group is required to
23 hold at least 4 meetings prior to the council's submitting a report to the Joint Select
24 Committee on Housing by November 6, 2024. The amendment also requires the Maine
25 State Housing Authority to amend its rules to ensure that \$2,500,000, or an equivalent
26 percentage of the funds appropriated for the shelter operation subsidy, is reserved
27 exclusively for distribution to low-barrier shelters.

28 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

29 (See attached)