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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE**

**SENATE**

**128TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 257, L.D. 812, “Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Project To Save Lives and Support People with Substance Use Disorder in Washington County”

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary 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,** substance use disorder is a crisis in Washington County requiring a systems approach to combat the issue; and

**Whereas,** a pilot project in Washington County developed without the need for state general funds must be evaluated and provide data allowing for replication in other rural areas of the State; 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. Washington County Substance Use Disorder Pilot Project established. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a Washington County Substance Use Disorder Pilot Project, referred to in this resolve as "the pilot project," to develop a systems approach to providing services in a rural area for residents of Washington County with substance use disorder through helping to coordinate service needs among organizations and providers to help bridge any gaps in services and ultimately assisting individuals in accessing treatment and recovery services when they are ready. The department shall work with Healthy Acadia as the lead agency in Washington County for developing the pilot project. The department shall provide advice and assistance to Healthy Acadia in applying for federal grant funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 Mental Health Services Administration to fund the pilot project, including any requests  
2 for proposals required by this resolve; and be it further

3 **Sec. 2. Telephone system. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and  
4 Human Services shall work with Healthy Acadia to establish a central coordinating  
5 telephone system located in Washington County no later than October 1, 2018. The  
6 department may expand an existing hotline or use some other strategy to establish the  
7 telephone system. The telephone system must be staffed at all times so that it is available  
8 at any time to any person in Washington County. The telephone system must be made  
9 widely available to organizations in Washington County, including law enforcement,  
10 medical and emergency personnel, public officials, educational staff and members of the  
11 public, to connect those in need of substance use disorder treatment with counseling,  
12 referral services, recovery coaches and other related assistance. Telephone system staff  
13 answering the telephone calls must be qualified to provide counseling in addition to  
14 referral services. The department and the coordinating council established pursuant to  
15 section 3 shall develop a system that coordinates the Washington County telephone  
16 system with the State's 2-1-1 system to ensure maximum access for any person who calls  
17 the telephone system; and be it further

18 **Sec. 3. Washington County Coordinating Council. Resolved:** That the  
19 Department of Health and Human Services shall work with Healthy Acadia to establish  
20 and support a Washington County Coordinating Council consisting of up to 15 members  
21 representing persons and organizations in Washington County and surrounding areas  
22 involved in substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery, including a  
23 representative from Healthy Acadia as lead agency; a representative from the Department  
24 of Health and Human Services; members of organizations representing health care,  
25 including primary care, emergency care, hospitals, mental health agencies and providers  
26 of substance use disorder treatment, including faith-based treatment; members of law  
27 enforcement, including county jails; organizations involved in education, prevention and  
28 advocacy; a person involved in the local business community; and persons in recovery  
29 living in the area. The council shall choose a chair to preside over meetings and it shall  
30 meet at least once every 2 months. The Department of Health and Human Services shall  
31 work with Healthy Acadia to ensure that an executive assistant coordinates record  
32 keeping and meetings and other administrative tasks. The council shall coordinate  
33 services in the pilot project, including access to the telephone system established pursuant  
34 to section 2 and accuracy of information relating to services, medication-assisted  
35 treatment, detoxification, residential and other treatment services, peer recovery and  
36 coaching services, education programs in schools, pain and chronic disease self-  
37 management classes, jail treatment programs and other programs as well as tracking  
38 barriers to treatment and recovery and facilitating system improvements to reduce or  
39 eliminate identified barriers; and be it further

40 **Sec. 4. Recovery coaching. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and  
41 Human Services shall establish and support recovery coaching services in Washington  
42 County. A coordinator shall assist in developing, training and establishing recovery  
43 coaches who provide volunteer services around Washington County, including ensuring  
44 that recovery coaches are connected to persons in treatment and recovery, including  
45 through the telephone system established pursuant to section 2, and that recovery coaches  
46 are available at all times, and in keeping track of the system of recovery coaches. The

1 department and coordinator shall endeavor to provide assistance to volunteers such as  
2 recruiting, training, transportation assistance, facilitating connections to community  
3 organizations and other assistance; and be it further

4 **Sec. 5. Evaluation program. Resolved:** That by June 30, 2019 the Department  
5 of Health and Human Services shall establish and report baseline and recovery outcome  
6 measures to be used in evaluating the pilot project. To the extent required and supported  
7 by federal grant funding, the department shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot project.  
8 The department, in conjunction with the coordinating council established pursuant to  
9 section 3, shall report the findings of the evaluation to the joint standing committee of the  
10 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than  
11 March 1, 2021. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the First  
12 Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

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

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This amendment replaces the resolve. It amends the proposed Washington County  
17 Substance Use Disorder Pilot Project in the following ways.

18 1. It establishes the pilot project under the Department of Health and Human  
19 Services working with local organizations, with Healthy Acadia as the lead organization.  
20 The department is required to assist Healthy Acadia with seeking federal funding for the  
21 pilot project.

22 2. It requires the establishment of a central coordinating telephone system available  
23 to anyone in Washington County at any time to assist individuals with accessing services  
24 related to substance use disorder treatment and recovery. Individuals receiving the phone  
25 calls must be qualified to provide counseling services to all callers in addition to  
26 providing referrals.

27 3. It requires the establishment of a coordinating council made up of representatives  
28 of persons and organizations in the area involved in the health and welfare of Washington  
29 County residents. The council is responsible for providing a coordinated system of  
30 services for prevention, treatment and recovery for substance use disorder.

31 4. It requires the establishment of a recovery coach coordinator position. The  
32 coordinator is required to establish a system of recovery coaches available in all areas of  
33 the treatment and recovery system in Washington County and provide education and  
34 support to volunteer recovery coaches.

35 5. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct an evaluation  
36 of the success of the pilot project in Washington County. The department must report to  
37 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human  
38 services matters on the evaluation no later than March 1, 2021.

39 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

40 **(See attached)**