

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

—  
H.P. 268 - L.D. 435

**Resolve, to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Report on Children's Residential Treatment Services and Implementation of the Department's Strategic Priorities for Children's Behavioral Health Services**

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

**Whereas,** children continue to wait for behavioral health care services within the State; and

**Whereas,** many children are receiving behavioral health care services outside the State; and

**Whereas,** Maine needs solutions to this problem immediately to address waiting lists and ensure that the State is in compliance with federal requirements; 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. Department of Health and Human Services to study children's residential treatment services. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall review the relevant data and conduct an analysis of the capacity, occupancy and availability of and access to children's residential treatment services within the State, as well as the residential treatment services located outside of the State that are being provided to children who normally reside in this State.

**Sec. 2. Report on children's residential treatment services and implementation of strategic priorities for children's behavioral health services developed by Department of Health and Human Services. Resolved:** That, by January 2, 2025, the department shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters a report consisting of:

1. A summary of the data and results of the analysis of children's residential treatment services as directed by section 1;

2. A summary of the department's progress in implementing the strategic priorities developed in 2019 to implement the children's behavioral health services plan for Maine developed by the department's Office of Child and Family Services; and

3. A summary of the department's current priorities to ensure the availability, quality and consistency of and access to behavioral health care services for children.

The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

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