

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: April 9, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Erin Dooling, Esq., Legislative Analyst

LD 475 Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative

SUMMARY: This resolve is emergency legislation. It establishes the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative in order to develop a plan to provide stable housing and community services to 200 persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are the most frequent consumers of high-cost services, such as psychiatric hospitals, emergency shelters, emergency rooms, police, jails and prisons.

Membership of the collaborative includes representatives from the MeSHA, DHHS, DOC, Statewide Homeless Council, Maine Sheriff's Association, emergency health services and any other members with relevant expertise.

The collaborative must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than January 1, 2022 on its plan and recommendations. The committee is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature related to the report.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS FROM TESTIMONY:

- *Maine Municipal Assoc.:* Suggests including a municipal official in the membership of the Collaborative
- *Northern Light Health Mercy Hospital:* Suggests including a representative of a psychiatric hospital in the membership of the Collaborative
- *Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services:* Suggests including a representative of providers of community-based behavioral health services in the membership of the Collaborative

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE:

- *Provided by Maine State Housing (emailed):*
 - What will happen to the people who are currently living in the Bangor Ramada once the money to house people in hotels runs out?
 - Why was Lewiston not included in the projects MaineHousing spoke about?
- *Provided by Cullen Ryan, CHOM (emailed):*
 - Similar efforts that have been implemented in other communities

FISCAL IMPACT: Preliminary fiscal impact statement shows minor cost increase that can be absorbed within existing resources; no fiscal note required.