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No. 861

H.P. 629

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Contract for Assessments for Involuntary Hospitalizations

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft. Cosponsored by Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, TEPLER of Topsham, WHITE of Waterville, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: BAILEY of York, MAXMIN of Lincoln. **Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to contract with medical practitioners. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall contract with medical practitioners qualified to perform the assessment required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 3862-A, subsection 2. The contract or contracts must provide for medical practitioner availability 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Sec. 2. Department medical practitioners to perform assessments. Resolved: That, until the contracts required by section 1 are executed, medical practitioners qualified to perform the assessment required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 3862-A, subsection 2 who are employed by a state mental health institute as defined in Title 34-B, section 3801, subsection 9 shall perform the assessment required by Title 34-B, section 3862-A, subsection 2.

12 SUMMARY

Public Law 2019, chapter 411 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a request for proposals, or RFP, for technology-supported assessments of foreseeable harm for the purposes of involuntary hospitalization. The RFP has yet to be issued. This resolve directs the department to move forward with contracts for assessments and provides that until the contracts are issued, qualified medical practitioners employed by the State's psychiatric hospitals shall perform the assessments.