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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 710, L.D. 964, “An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery Residence Services”

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 3-A in §20057 in the first indented paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Recovery" and inserting the following: 'Beginning July 1, 2022, recovery'

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 3-A in §20057 in subsection 2 in the first line (page 1, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Any" and inserting the following: 'To the extent not in conflict with federal law, any'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4309, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Eligibility; recovery residence; exception. The overseer in a municipality may not deny general assistance to a person for the sole reason that the person is residing in a recovery residence. Beginning July 1, 2022, a municipality may not provide housing assistance to a person residing in a recovery residence that has not been certified in accordance with Title 5, section 20005, subsection 22, except that the person may receive housing assistance while residing in an uncertified recovery residence for one 30-day period only and the overseer shall inform the person of the requirements of this subsection. A person who is ineligible for housing assistance under this subsection may remain eligible to receive general assistance for other basic necessities.

Sec. 4. Recovery residence assistance levels; rulemaking. No later than July 1, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rule, Chapter 323: Maine General Assistance Manual, to establish appropriate maximum housing assistance levels for eligible persons residing in recovery residences that take into account any additional costs of providing recovery residences as well as the fair market rents established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development used to establish maximum housing assistance levels under the program including those for other shared housing arrangements.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
2 allocations are made.

3 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
4 **Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Z199**

5 Initiative: Provides funding to increase the contract for certification of the recovery
6 residences.

7 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
8 All Other	\$0	\$256,913
9		
10 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$256,913

11 ‘

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

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

16 1. It requires recovery residences to be certified in order to receive contracts from the
17 Department of Health and Human Services or housing assistance or vouchers for persons
18 eligible for general assistance, as of July 1, 2022.

19 2. It clarifies that any housing assistance or vouchers provided through the Maine State
20 Housing Authority provided to a person recovering from substance use disorder under the
21 bill does not conflict with federal law.

22 3. It allows a person residing in a recovery residence that is not certified to receive
23 housing assistance in the general assistance program for one 30-day period and requires the
24 overseer of the municipality to inform the person that the law requires certification of the
25 recovery residence for housing assistance in the general assistance program.

26 4. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to change its rules to
27 establish appropriate maximum housing assistance levels for eligible persons residing in
28 recovery residences that take into account the additional costs of providing recovery
29 residences compared to other shared housing arrangements as well as the fair market rents
30 established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development that are
31 used to establish maximum housing assistance levels under the general assistance program.

32 The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

33 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

34 **(See attached)**