

126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1594

H.P. 1165

House of Representatives, December 30, 2013

Resolve, To Improve Access to Emergency Behavioral Health Services and Increase Public Safety

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 23, 2013. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millient M. Macfarland MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative DORNEY of Norridgewock. Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and

Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, MALABY of Hancock, MARKS of Pittston,

Senators: GERZOFSKY of Cumberland, HASKELL of Cumberland.

Sec. 1. Toll-free crisis call-in number. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall combine all of the Department of Health and Human Services' toll-free emergency crisis telephone lines under one toll-free crisis call-in number. The toll-free crisis call-in number must be staffed by trained personnel who are able to provide immediate initial assistance and can refer callers to area mobile crisis units or a peer-staffed warm line as needed. The toll-free crisis call-in number must have coverage 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. For purposes of this section, "peer-staffed warm line" means a telephone line that provides assistance to people whose needs are not urgent and that is staffed by persons with relevant personal experience; and be it further

Sec. 2. Administrative savings. Resolved: That any administrative savings realized under section 1 must be used to fund a public information advertisement campaign to inform the public about the new toll-free crisis call-in number. Any excess savings must be credited to the General Fund.

14 SUMMARY

This resolve requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to combine all of the Department of Health and Human Services' toll-free emergency crisis telephone lines under one toll-free crisis call-in number to be staffed by trained personnel who will assist callers or refer callers to other services as appropriate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Any money saved must be used to fund a public information advertisement campaign to inform the public about the new toll-free crisis call-in number.