

STATE OF MAINE

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

—
S.P. 195 - L.D. 488

Resolve, To Expand Recovery Community Organizations throughout Maine

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

Whereas, recovery community centers are a critical component of services for individuals with substance use disorder in recovery; and

Whereas, recovery community centers provide hope and connection to individuals in recovery and counter the effects of isolation; and

Whereas, the State is in the process of establishing new recovery community centers and those new centers should be prioritized in counties that do not have centers; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect immediately upon enactment in order to promote as soon as possible the establishment of recovery community centers in counties without centers; 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 prioritize new recovery community center contracts. Resolved: That, in the process of awarding contract funding to establish or develop new recovery community centers to serve individuals with substance use disorder, the Department of Health and Human Services shall give preference in awarding contracts that establish or develop new recovery community centers in counties that have no state-funded recovery community centers or no other recovery community centers until every county has a center. For purposes of this resolve, "recovery community center" means a peer-operated organization whose primary purpose is to provide the community-based connections necessary for a person to enter and sustain recovery from substance use disorder by serving as a source of information on recovery, making referrals to local resources and providing or referring an individual to mutual-help or peer-support organization meetings or social activities.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall appear periodically before the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters to report on the geographical distribution of recovery community centers across the State and progress in establishing a center in every county in the State.

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