

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 710 - L.D. 964

**An Act To Expand Access to Certified Substance Use Disorder Recovery  
Residence Services**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 521, sub-c. 3-A is enacted to read:

**SUBCHAPTER 3-A**

**RECOVERY**

**§20057. Certified recovery residences**

Beginning July 1, 2022, recovery residences must be certified pursuant to the requirements established in section 20005, subsection 22, to receive:

**1. Contracts.** Any department contract for a recovery residence or services related to the recovery residence; or

**2. Housing assistance.** To the extent not in conflict with federal law, any housing assistance or voucher provided by the department, the Maine State Housing Authority or a municipality provided to or for the person recovering from substance use disorder.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§14 is enacted to read:

**14. Recovery residence.** "Recovery residence" has the same meaning as in Title 5, section 20003, subsection 19-D.

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.

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

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

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

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$90,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$90,000