

129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 177

H.P. 140

House of Representatives, January 17, 2019

Resolve, To Improve Access to Bariatric Care

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais. Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives: COREY of Windham, CRAVEN of Lewiston, MEYER of Eliot. Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to provide specialized bariatric care beds. Resolved: That, by September 1, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide 16 new specialized bariatric care beds in one or more nursing facilities to serve individuals with a body mass index greater than 40 who are eligible for long-term care. A nursing facility with a specialized bariatric care bed must be reimbursed at a rate that considers the special needs of individuals with a body mass index greater than 40, including, but not limited to, additional staffing for safety in transfers, transportation needs, specialized equipment, private rooms, extensive environmental modifications and mental health services. The department shall ensure that staff of a nursing facility with a specialized bariatric care bed have mental health training and that the facility provides safe and adequate space for free movement and transportation for activities in the community.

13 SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide 16 new specialized bariatric care beds in one or more nursing facilities to serve individuals with a body mass index greater than 40.