

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2200

S.P. 936

In Senate, February 1, 2024

Resolve, to Attract and Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

1 Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement program to provide recruitment and retention incentive to 2 behavioral health clinicians. Resolved: That, to support the recruitment and retention 3 4 of behavioral health clinicians in the State, the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop and implement a program to provide, during fiscal year 2024-25, a \$25,000 5 recruitment and retention incentive to those behavioral health clinicians in the State who 6 7 meet criteria established by the department. The program developed by the department 8 must, at a minimum, require that a behavioral health clinician and an employer sign a 9 written agreement that includes conditions determined by the department for receiving the recruitment and retention incentive. The department shall establish criteria regarding 10 participation in the program, including, but not limited to: 11

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1. Eligibility criteria to participate in the program;

13 2. The minimum period of time a behavioral health clinician must agree to be14 employed by an employer; and

Conditions under which employment may be terminated by the behavioral health
clinician or an employer and any obligations of the behavioral health clinician or an
employer if employment is terminated, including the conditions under which the behavioral
health clinician is required to repay the recruitment and retention incentive.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by November 6, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report regarding the recruitment and retention incentive program developed and implemented pursuant to section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a program to provide a \$25,000 recruitment and retention incentive to behavioral health clinicians in the State during fiscal year 2024-25. It directs the department to establish criteria regarding participation in the program and to submit a report regarding the program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.