

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2208

H. P. 1749 House of Representatives, January 2, 1974
Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence
and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Goodwin of So. Berwick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

**AN ACT Creating a Bureau of Institutional Resident Representatives
Within the Maine Human Rights Commission.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 5, c. 337, sub-c. V-A, additional. Chapter 337 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subchapter V-A to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER V-A

BUREAU OF INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

§ 4601. Powers and duties

The Bureau of Institutional Resident Representatives is created within the Maine Human Rights Commission and has the responsibility for seeing that all laws relating to the rights and dignity of patients and inmates at the various state institutions be enforced and to act as advocates on behalf of the patients and inmates.

To carry out these duties, the bureau shall have:

1. Office. Office space will be provided at each institution for the use of the resident representative;

2. Board of Visitors. Each resident representative may assist the Board of Visitors of that institution in carrying out their duties.

§ 4602. Complaints

Any complaints of violation of rights or of discrimination which are unsatisfactorily handled at the institution or through the Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections office may be submitted to the commission by the resident representative.

Upon receipt of complaint, the commission may undertake an investigation and institute resolution of the complaint as outlined by section 4612.

Sec. 2. Amendatory clause. For the purpose of establishing the Bureau of Institutional Resident Representatives, the structure and staff presently engaged as patient-inmate representatives shall be transferred out of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections and placed within the Human Rights Commission.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this legislation is to transfer the present structure and staff of the Institutional Resident Representatives from the Department of Mental Health and Corrections to the Human Rights Commission.