

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 253

ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION

Sec.

- 1351. Treatment authorized.
- 1352. Advisory Committee.
- 1353. Hospitalization.
- 1354. Agreement for personal restraint.
- 1355. Progress investigation.

**§ 1351. Treatment authorized**

Alcoholism is declared to be an acute problem requiring such efforts as may reasonably be made in the treatment thereof. The department is authorized to take such action as it may deem necessary to assist in bringing about the reduction in alcoholism.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 91.

**§ 1352. Advisory Committee**

An Advisory Committee, as heretofore established, shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, to advise and consult with the Department of Health and Welfare in carrying out the administration of section 1351. The committee shall consist of 7 members and shall include the Commissioner of Health and Welfare ex officio. The chairman shall be appointed by the Governor. Each member shall hold office for a term of 3 years, except that any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. Committee members, while serving on business of the committee, shall receive no compensation but shall be entitled to receive actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses while so serving away from their places of residence. The committee shall meet as frequently as the chairman deems necessary but not less than once each year.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 92.

**§ 1353. Hospitalization**

A person alleged to be suffering from the effects of the use of an opiate, cocaine, chloral hydrate, other narcotic, barbiturate or the excessive use of alcohol may be committed to the care of

any hospital, including any state hospital for the mentally ill, or any legally qualified physician of not less than 5 years' actual practice for treatment. The medical authorities of said hospital or said physician to whom said patient is committed may restrain said patient, so committed, in such manner as may be necessary for his protection, for a period of not more than 90 days.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 167; 1961, c. 212, § 1.

**§ 1354. Agreement for personal restraint**

Before any restraint shall be imposed under the authority of section 1353, a voluntary agreement shall be made in writing by the person suffering from the effects of the use of an opiate, cocaine, chloral hydrate, other narcotic, barbiturate or the excessive use of alcohol, to the imposition of restraint upon his actions, if necessary, and such agreement must be witnessed by the husband, wife or parent of the person aforesaid, or one of the municipal officers of the city or town in which the person, so suffering, is a resident, and approved, after reasonable notice, by a Justice of the Superior Court or the judge of probate in the county where the patient resides.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 168; 1961, c. 212, § 2.

**§ 1355. Progress investigation**

Any Justice of the Superior Court or the judge of probate in the county where the patient resides may, at his discretion, require the department, or one of the county examiners of insane criminals, to investigate as to the progress of any such case, and, upon his or its certificate that further restraint is unnecessary, may annul the agreement and the person restrained shall be immediately released upon the order of said justice.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 169.