

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 21, 1938

Carl J. Hedin, M. D.  
Supt. Bangor State Hospital  
Bangor, Maine

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of January 20, inquiring whether "it is legal for osteopathic physicians to sign the physicians' certificate required to establish the fact of insanity in commitment procedures to this hospital".

In 1932 Dr. Tyson, Superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Augusta, raised this question in connection with the commitment of a patient from Westbrook. The matter was submitted to the then Attorney General, Hon. Clement F. Robinson, who ruled on January 20, 1932, that such signature was legal and that osteopathic physicians registered in this State are legally competent to sign these certificates. He based his finding on the provisions of Section 70 of Chapter 21 of the Revised Statutes which says, in part, "all reports and health certificates made by osteopathic physicians shall be accepted by the officers of the departments to which the same are made equally with the reports and health certificates of doctors of medicine", and he reasoned from that section that the Legislature intended to validate the signatures by osteopathic physicians to such certificates.

Very truly yours,

Francis U. Burkett  
Attorney General

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