

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 327

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S. P. 156

In Senate, January 25, 1967

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JERROLD B. SPEERS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Ross of Piscataquis.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Relating to Admission of Patients to State Hospitals.**

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

**R. S., T. 34, § 2331, amended.** The first paragraph of section 2331 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The head of a private hospital may receive therein for observation, diagnosis, care and treatment any individual whose admission is applied for under any of the procedures provided in this section. The head of a public hospital may receive therein for observation, diagnosis, care and treatment any individual whose admission is applied for under procedures 1 and 2, and shall receive therein for observation, diagnosis, care and treatment any individual whose admission is applied for under procedure 3:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Under the present statutory provisions for the admission of the mentally ill to state hospitals the superintendent must accept patients admitted under section 2 (Emergency Involuntary Admission). We receive more patients under this provision in whom no emergency exists than we do emergency cases and often these patients cannot be appropriately cared for in a mental hospital and their admission is needless. Presently under procedure "1" (Standard Involuntary Admission) the superintendent may decline to admit inappropriately referred patients. We wish this same provision to apply to the emergency admission. Section 3 covers admissions through probate court and the superintendent should have no authority to decline to admit anyone committed via probate court.

This provision for declining certain admissions is in keeping with the national recommendations on admission laws.