

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1707

H. P. 1295

House of Representatives, April 2, 1973

On motion of Mr. Norris of Brewer, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Norris of Brewer.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT to Repeal the Minimum Age for Hospitalization of Mentally Ill
Persons.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 34, § 2290, amended. The first sentence of section 2290 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 10 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

Any person ~~16 years of age or over~~, having no criminal action pending against him, desiring admission to a hospital for the mentally ill, other than a private hospital, for care and treatment of a mental illness, may be admitted, subject, except in case of medical emergency, to the availability of suitable accommodations, as a patient without making formal application therefor, although standard hospital information may be elicited, if, after examination, the head of the hospital deems such person suitable for such admission, care and treatment.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 34, § 2291, amended. Section 2291 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

§ 2291. Authority to receive voluntary patients

The head of a private hospital may, and the head of a public hospital, subject, except in case of medical emergency, to the availability of suitable accommodations, may admit for observation, diagnosis, care and treatment any individual who is mentally ill or has symptoms of mental illness and who ~~being 16 years of age or over~~ applies therefor, exclusive of those persons with pending criminal action.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It is the purpose of this bill to remove the age restriction for hospitalization of mentally ill persons.