

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2039

H. P. 1621

House of Representatives, June 15, 1973  
Pursuant to Joint Order (H. P. 1602)  
E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE.

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**AN ACT** Relating to the Terms of the Commissioners of the Departments of Health and Welfare and Mental Health and Corrections and to the Constitution of those Departments.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, § 1, amended. The first sentence of section 1 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 261 of the public laws of 1967, is further amended to read as follows:

The Department of Health and Welfare, as heretofore established and hereinafter in this Title called the "department" shall consist of such bureaus and divisions as may be required to carry out the work of the department; it shall also include the Committee on Children and Youth, the Governor's Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Committee on Aging and the Maine Commission on Drug Abuse.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 22, § 1, amended. The first sentence of the 2nd paragraph of section 1 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The department shall be under the control and supervision of the Commissioner of Health and Welfare, hereinafter in this Title called the "commissioner" who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council, for a term coterminous with the Governor, subject to removal for cause by the Governor and Council.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 34, § 1, amended. The first sentence of the 2nd paragraph of section 1 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

The department shall be under the control and supervision of a Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections, hereinafter in this Title called the "com-

missioner," who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council, for a term coterminous with the Governor, subject to removal for cause by the Governor and Council.

**Sec. 4. Terms.** The terms of the present Commissioner of the Department of Health and Welfare and the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections shall continue but shall expire in any event on the expiration of the term of the present Governor.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this legislation is to clearly indicate that the two mentioned departments are cabinet-level departments equal in status to the other reorganized departments and to provide that their heads' terms are coterminous with that of the Governor. These are the only two major departments which do not enjoy such status presently; this would in effect complete the legislative effort on reorganization.