

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1453

S. P. 437

In Senate, April 4, 1975

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Huber of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT Providing for Impoundment of Records of Commitment of  
Recovered Mental Patients.

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

34 MRSA § 2260 is enacted to read:

§ 2260. Impoundment of records of commitment

Any person who has been, or shall be, committed by order of any court or by voluntary commitment, to any mental health facility, and was, or shall be, discharged from such facility as recovered and who has not, or shall not, have been again committed to such a facility, may after the lapse of 5 years from the date of such discharge, apply to the court setting forth the facts and praying for relief provided for in this section to impound all records pertaining to his commitment.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Convicted prisoners now have the right of expungement after pardon while recovered mental patients have no process to rid themselves of cultural stigma due to commitment for mental illness. This bill would provide a procedure for impoundment of commitment records to assure confidentiality of such records.