

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1405

H. P. 1143

House of Representatives, March 22, 1979

On Motion of Mrs. Prescott of Hampden, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Stetson of Wiscasset.

Cosponsor: Mr. Howe of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Eliminate the Boards of Visitors within the Department of Mental Health and Corrections.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 3122, sub-§ 4, as amended by PL 1977, c. 325, § 1, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

A board of 5 visitors for the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf shall be appointed by the Governor. These visitors shall be appointed for a term of one year and shall be eligible for reappointment. No member of the Legislature shall serve on the Board of Visitors. The members of the board shall receive no compensation. The board shall have the right to inspect the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and to make recommendations relative to the management of the institution to the commissioner. Copies of all recommendations shall be sent to the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services, and the board shall appear before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services upon request.

Sec. 2. 34 MRSA c. 3, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 564, § 127, is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Boards of Visitors for the Department of Mental Health and Corrections have not been active or fully appointed for sometime. In addition, each bureau in the department now has an Advisory Commission appointed by the Governor. These Advisory Commissions are active and have duties which in large measure encompass those of the Boards of Visitors. The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the Boards of Visitors for the institutions under the Department of Mental Health and Corrections.

Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, which used to be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, is included in the current Board of Visitors statute. Since the school is now under the jurisdiction of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and since their Board of Visitors is fully appointed and active, section 1 of this proposal retains the school's Board of Visitors, but places it under the Title governing the Department of Educational and Cultural Services.