

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1065

7 H.P. 825

House of Representatives, March 4, 1983

8 Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule
9 24.

10 On Motion of Representative Nelson of Portland, referred to the
Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Manning of Portland.

11 Cosponsor: Representative Carroll of Gray.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Require the Proceedings of
18 Nonprofit Hospitals to be Open to the Public.
19

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

22 22 MRSA §1712 is enacted to read:

23 §1712. Open proceedings

24 The proceedings of every board of directors or
25 other governing body of any hospital owned or oper-
26 ated by a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit associa-
27 tion shall be open to the public in the same manner
28 and to the same extent as required of public proceed-
29 ings pursuant to Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter I.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 Hospitals owned or operated by nonprofit corpora-
3 tions or nonprofit associations are relied on by the
4 citizens of this State for services essential to
5 their health and well-being. Public funds from vari-
6 ous sources and by various means contribute signifi-
7 cantly to the revenues and operations of these insti-
8 tutions. Therefore, it is in the best interest of
9 the people of this State for all proceedings of the
10 boards of directors or other governing bodies of such
11 hospitals to be conducted in an open and public man-
12 ner so that the people can remain informed of the
13 decisions and decision-making processes affecting the
14 health services on which they so vitally depend and
15 which they help support through tax exemptions,
16 public funding and other means. Hospitals owned or
17 operated by the State or by local governmental units
18 are already subject to open meeting requirements.

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