

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1235

6
7 H.P. 878

House of Representatives, April 9, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Melendy of Rockland.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Najarian of Cumberland, Senator Carpenter of
Aroostook and Representative Willey of Hampden.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Require the Proceedings of Boards
18 of Directors of Nonprofit Hospitals to
19 be Open to the Public.
20

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

23 1. MRSA §402, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1977, c.
24 164, §1, is further amended to read:

25 2. Public proceedings. The term "public proceed-
26 ings" as used in this subchapter shall mean the
27 transactions of any functions affecting any or all
28 citizens of the State by any of the following:

29 A. The Legislature of Maine and its committees
30 and subcommittees;

31 B. Any board or commission of any state agency
32 or authority, the Board of Trustees of the Uni-
33 versity of Maine and any of its committees and
34 subcommittees, the administrative council of the

1 University of Maine, the Board of Trustees of the
2 Maine Maritime Academy and any of its committees
3 and subcommittees; ~~and~~

4 C. Any board, commission, agency or authority of
5 any county, municipality, school district or any
6 other political or administrative subdivision;
7 and

8 D. Any board of directors or other governing
9 body of any hospital owned or operated by a non-
10 profit corporation or nonprofit association.

11 STATEMENT OF FACT

12 Hospitals owned or operated by nonprofit corpora-
13 tions or nonprofit associations are relied on by the
14 citizens of this State for services essential to
15 their health and well-being. Public funds from vari-
16 ous sources and by various means contribute signifi-
17 cantly to the revenues and operations of these insti-
18 tutions. It is in the best interest of the people of
19 this State for all proceedings of the boards of di-
20 rectors or other governing bodies of the hospitals to
21 be conducted in an open and public manner so that the
22 people can remain informed of the decisions and deci-
23 sion-making processes affecting the health services
24 on which they so vitally depend and which they help
25 support through tax exemptions, public funding and
26 other means. Hospitals owned or operated by the
27 State or by local governmental units are already sub-
28 ject to open meeting requirements.

29 This bill requires meetings of the governing body
30 of nonprofit hospitals to be open to the public the
31 same as State Government or local government owned
32 hospitals.

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