

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1043

S.P. 351

In Senate, April 1, 1987

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin.

Cosponsored by Senator GILL of Cumberland, Representative PINES of Limestone, Representative CONNOLLY of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 **AN ACT to Ensure Accessibility to Mental**
2 **Health Services for Deaf Persons.**
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4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
5 follows:

6 34-B MRSA §3005, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 467,
7 is repealed and the following is enacted in its
8 place:

9 §3005. Services to persons who are deaf or hearing
10 impaired

11 1. Accommodations and services. The Bureau of
12 Mental Health shall provide accommodations and ser-
13 vices for deaf or hearing impaired persons providing
14 access to mental health programs funded or licensed
15 by the bureau. These accommodations shall include,
16 but are not limited to, the following:

1 A. Appropriate mental health assessments for
2 deaf clients;

3 B. Provision of interpreter services for treat-
4 ment;

5 C. Education and training for mental health
6 staff providing treatment to deaf persons;

7 D. Placement of telecommunication devices for
8 the deaf in comprehensive community mental health
9 facilities;

10 E. Support and training for families with deaf
11 members who experience a mental health problem;
12 and

13 F. Establishment of a therapeutic residence pro-
14 gram for persons who are deaf and in need of res-
15 idential mental health treatment. The
16 therapeutic residence program shall be operated
17 in conjunction with existing rehabilitation, edu-
18 cation, mental health treatment and housing re-
19 sources. The therapeutic residence program shall
20 be staffed by individuals trained in mental
21 health treatment and proficient in deaf communi-
22 cation.

23 2. Report. The Bureau of Mental Health shall
24 prepare a biennial report which describes accommoda-
25 tions and services available and identifies addition-
26 al service needs and a plan to address these needs.
27 The Bureau Director shall include representatives
28 from deaf communities, families and public and pri-
29 ivate service agencies in the preparation of the re-
30 port. The report shall be submitted to the joint
31 standing committee of the Legislature having juris-
32 isdiction over human resources by January 15th of every
33 even-numbered year.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill provides that the Bureau of Mental Health shall provide accommodations and services to hearing impaired persons in order that those persons may have better access to mental health programs funded or licensed by the bureau.

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