

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Emergency)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1534

S.P. 510

In Senate, May 13, 1987

Submitted by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MAYBURY of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative FOSTER of Ellsworth, Representative LEBOWITZ of Bangor, Representative DIAMOND of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1                   **Resolve, to Authorize the Commissioner of**  
2                   **Mental Health and Mental Retardation**  
3                   **to Continue to Employ Charles E.**  
4                   **Meredith, M.D., as Superintendent of**  
5                   **the Bangor Mental Health Institute.**  
6

7                   **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves  
8 of the Legislature do not become effective until 90  
9 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;  
10 and

11                   Whereas, The Commissioner of Mental Health and  
12 Mental Retardation has appointed Charles E. Meredith,  
13 M.D., a commissioned officer in the United States  
14 Public Health Service, as Superintendent of the  
15 Bangor Mental Health Institute; and

1           Whereas, the greater Bangor area and the Bangor  
2 Mental Health Institute specifically have been de-  
3 clared to be areas in which a psychiatric manpower  
4 shortage exists according to the requirements of the  
5 United States Department of Health and Human Services  
6 and the United States Public Health Service; and

7           Whereas, the Bangor Mental Health Institute as  
8 one of the State's major psychiatric service facili-  
9 ties is in need of additional psychiatric manpower;  
10 and

11           Whereas, Senator William Cohen and Senator George  
12 Mitchell, Maine's 2 United States Senators, directly  
13 intervened on Maine's behalf with the United States  
14 Public Health Service to effectuate the assignment of  
15 Dr. Meredith to Maine; and

16           Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,  
17 section 3003, limits the time period for interchange  
18 of governmental employees to 12 out of any 36-month  
19 period; and

20           Whereas, the Commissioner of Mental Health and  
21 Mental Retardation wishes to appoint Charles E.  
22 Meredith, M.D., for a period to exceed 12 months; and

23           Whereas, the 12-month period of Charles E.  
24 Meredith's appointment as Superintendent of the  
25 Bangor Mental Health Institute will terminate on July  
26 8, 1987; and

27           Whereas, it is vital for the position of the Su-  
28 perintendent of the Bangor Mental Health Institute to  
29 continue to be filled by Charles E. Meredith, M.D.,  
30 after July 8, 1987; and

31           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,  
32 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of  
33 the Constitution of Maine and require the following  
34 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-  
35 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
36 therefore, be it

37           Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retarda-  
38 tion authorized. Resolved: That, notwithstanding  
39 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3003,

1 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retarda-  
2 tion is authorized to appoint Charles E. Meredith,  
3 M.D., as Superintendent of the Bangor Mental Health  
4 Institute for a period to exceed 12 months.

5 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited  
6 in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when  
7 approved.

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

9 Charles E. Meredith, M.D., a Board Certified Psy-  
10 chiatrist, licensed to practice in the State and an  
11 active duty commissioned officer in the United States  
12 Public Health Service Corps as an employee of the  
13 Federal Government has been assigned to Maine at our  
14 request and was appointed by the Commissioner of Men-  
15 tal Health and Mental Retardation to act as Superin-  
16 tendent of the Bangor Mental Health Institute on July  
17 8, 1986, after an extensive search which commenced on  
18 May 24, 1985. Dr. Meredith brings not only ample ad-  
19 ministrative experience, but also represents addition-  
20 al psychiatric manpower to the hospital. The  
21 Penobscot County and Bangor Mental Health Institute  
22 were designated by the Federal Government at Maine's  
23 request as a health manpower shortage area, specifi-  
24 cally in psychiatry. Dr. Meredith was the successful  
25 candidate after a wide recruitment process, several  
26 lengthy interviews and extensive reference checking  
27 and was assigned to Maine by the United States Pub-  
28 lic Health Service Corps after Maine requested a psy-  
29 chiatrist with lengthy leadership and administrative  
30 experience be assigned to assist the State.

31 Dr. Meredith has been assigned to Maine by the  
32 United States Public Health Service Corps on a con-  
33 tract basis and serves at the pleasure of the Commis-  
34 sioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. He  
35 remains a federal employee assigned to Maine. The  
36 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3003, howev-  
37 er, prohibits the interchange of governmental employ-  
38 ees in excess of 12 months during any 36-month peri-  
39 od. In order for Dr. Meredith as a United States  
40 Public Health Service Corps employee to continue to  
41 serve as the Superintendent of the Bangor Mental

1 Health Institute, which is desired by the department,  
2 the Legislature must override the 12-month limitation  
3 which ends on July 8, 1987.

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