

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.S.

L.D. 1667

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HUMAN RESOURCES

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
116TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1240, L.D. 1667, Bill, "An Act to Establish a System of Community Regional Mental Health Boards"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Regarding the Regional Mental Health Authority Demonstration'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

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

Sec. 1. PL 1991, c. 781, Pt. C, §2 is amended to read:

Sec. C-2. Regional authorities demonstration. The commissioner shall establish a regional authority demonstration program within existing state resources. The commissioner may receive and expend private and federal funds for the development and evaluation of the demonstration program. The commissioner shall contract with one regional authority to serve the department's Region I and one regional authority to serve the department's Region V and may contract with one regional authority to serve a rural region of the State. Within the demonstration areas, the regional authorities must be the loci of coordination among public services for consumers of mental health services. The purposes of the regional authorities include the following:

- 1. To plan for and promote the development and organization of adult mental health services that respond to the unique needs and demographic characteristics of the service area;

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2           2. To enhance consumer and family involvement in the  
3 development, organization and evaluation of adult mental health  
4 services and to encourage the expansion of consumer-operated  
5 services;

6           3. To engage in outcome-oriented mental health services  
7 planning, based upon the establishment of achievable goals and  
8 measurable time-limited objectives; and

9           4. To develop a regional capacity to secure funds for  
10 mental health services beyond those provided by the department.

11           **Sec. 2. PL 1991, c. 781, Pt. C, §7 is amended to read:**

12           **Sec. C-7. Report.** The commissioner shall begin implementing  
13 this Part no later than July 1, 1992. By January 1, 1994 1995,  
14 the ~~commissioner~~ task force appointed pursuant to section 10  
15 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the  
16 Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources matters.  
17 The report must include an evaluation of the regional authorities  
18 demonstration program and recommendations, along with any  
19 necessary implementing legislation describe the experience of the  
20 regional authorities demonstration, analyze that experience and  
21 assess the viability of implementing regional authorities in  
22 other regions. The report must include any legislation necessary  
23 to implement the recommendations of the task force. The  
24 evaluation In addition, the report must include at least the  
25 following:

26           1. An assessment of the efficacy and cost effectiveness of  
27 the regional authorities. The assessment of cost effectiveness  
28 must include, but is not limited to, a description of the cost of  
29 operating regional authorities and estimated savings, if any,  
30 that would result from reductions in staff at the department's  
31 central office if regional authorities were expanded to other  
32 regions;

33           2. An assessment of the case management function in each  
34 demonstration area; and

35           3. An assessment of crisis intervention services, which  
36 must be provided in at least one of the demonstration areas;

37           4. An evaluation of the advisory relationship between the  
38 regional authorities and mental health service providers,  
39 including hospitals. The task force must recommend whether to  
40 maintain the advisory relationship or alter it in some manner,  
41 including, but not limited to, replacing the advisory  
42 relationship with membership on the boards of the regional  
43 authorities;

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2 5. A comparison of the effectiveness of the demonstration  
in rural parts and urban parts of the demonstration areas;

4 6. An evaluation of the relationship between the department  
and the regional authorities and recommendations regarding  
6 whether regional authorities should have greater or lesser degree  
of autonomy; and

8 7. Recommendations regarding whether children's mental  
10 health and developmental disability services should be provided  
through regional authorities and, if so, whether they should be  
12 consolidated with adult mental health authorities or established  
as separate authorities.

14 **Sec. 3. PL 1991, c. 781, Pt. C, §9 is amended to read:**

16 **Sec. C-9. Sunset.** This Part is repealed October 1, 1994 1995.

18 **Sec. 4. PL 1991, c. 781, Pt. C, §10 is enacted to read:**

20 **Sec. C-10. Task force.** By August 1, 1994, the commissioner  
22 shall appoint a task force of no more than 15 members to evaluate  
the regional authorities demonstration and submit the report  
24 required by section 7. The task force must include  
26 representation of all parties affected or potentially affected by  
regional authorities, including, but not limited to, consumers,  
28 family members, mental health professionals, community mental  
health service providers, hospitals, law enforcement officials  
and funding sources. The existing regional authorities shall  
30 cooperate fully with the task force and assist the task force in  
carrying out its responsibilities.

32 **Sec. 5. Implementation in Region V.** By July 1, 1994, the  
34 Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall enter  
into a contract with the regional mental health authority  
36 established in Region V pursuant to Public Law 1991, chapter 781,  
Part C. The contract must enable the regional authority to  
38 perform fully the functions of a regional authority, as specified  
in Public Law 1991, chapter 781, Part C.

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42 **FISCAL NOTE**

44 The additional costs to establish a task force to evaluate  
the regional authorities demonstration and to submit the required  
46 report can be absorbed by the Department of Mental Health and  
Mental Retardation utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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The amendment replaces the original bill. The original bill took preliminary steps toward the establishment of regional mental health boards in every region of the State. The amendment addresses the evaluation of the current mental health board demonstration but does not presuppose that the demonstration will be expanded statewide. The amendment also does the following:

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1. Because the department has not been able to establish a demonstration in Region I as required in Public Law 1991, chapter 781, that requirement is deleted and the department is given discretion to establish a demonstration in any rural region;

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2. Public Law 1991, chapter 781 limited the demonstration to adult mental health services. That limitation is removed to enable consideration of adding children's mental health and developmental disability services to the demonstration;

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3. As in the original bill, the reporting date for the demonstration project is extended one year to January, 1995. In addition, the amendment requires the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to appoint a task force and makes the task force responsible for the report, rather than placing that responsibility directly on the commissioner. Also, the topics to be addressed in the report are expanded to include estimates of central bureaucracy savings to be derived by implementation of local boards; the relationship between the boards and providers; the relationship between boards and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and the role of boards in children's services;

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4. Under Public Law 1991, chapter 781, authority for the demonstration project sunsets on October 1, 1994. That sunset date is changed to October 1, 1995; and

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5. A fiscal note is added to the bill.