

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1015

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DATE: May 7, 1997

(Filing No. S-191)

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Reported by: Senator Michaud

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 307, L.D. 1015, Bill, "An Act to Restore Needed Positions at the Augusta Mental Health Institute and the Bangor Mental Health Institute"

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

'An Act to Authorize the Extension of Needed Positions at the Augusta Mental Health Institute'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services authorized to extend position end dates and transfer funds. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1585 or any other provision of law, the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services may extend the May 31, 1997 end date for 37.5 positions at the Augusta Mental Health Institute in order to meet staff-to-patient ratio requirements as outlined in the final consolidated plan response in the matter of Bates v. Peet cv-89-88 (Me. Super. Ct., Kenn Cty., Mar. 8, 1996)(Mills, N.) to May 31, 1998. A listing of the positions to be extended is on file in the Bureau of the Budget.

The commissioner also may transfer funds as needed for this purpose by financial order from the Consent Decree Reinvestment Fund-Mental Health or the Mental Health Services - Community Medicaid account to the Disproportionate Share - Augusta Mental

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 307, L.D. 1015

2 Health Institute account and to make corresponding allocation
3 increases in the Augusta Mental Health Institute Other Special
4 Revenue account. This financial order takes effect upon approval
by the Governor.'

6 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
7 summary the following:

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FISCAL NOTE

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The General Fund cost to the Department of Mental Health,
14 Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services associated with
extending the end dates of certain positions from May 31, 1997 to
16 May 31, 1998 will be supported through financial order transfers
of existing budgeted resources. The department will also
18 experience an increase in Other Special Revenue from
disproportionate share hospital payments due to the increase in
20 costs at the Augusta Mental Health Institute. The total cost to
the General Fund and Other Special Revenue, should the positions
22 be extended for the full 12 months, would be approximately
\$1,250,000.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment replaces the bill with language that extends
28 the end dates for 37.5 positions at the Augusta Mental Health
Institute from May 31, 1997 to May 31, 1998. The Commissioner of
30 Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services is
authorized to transfer existing budgeted resources to fund any
32 extension.