

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1113

S.P. 335

In Senate, February 18, 1997

An Act to Require the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to Report the Facts of an Unnatural Death of a Patient under the Care of the Department to the Legislature.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENOIT of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representatives: HONEY of Boothbay, LOVETT of Scarborough, MARVIN of Cape Elizabeth, WINGLASS of Auburn.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1207, sub-§1, ¶C-1 is enacted to read:**

6 C-1. In an executive session as provided in Title 1,
8 section 405, subsection 6, paragraph F, the commissioner
10 shall disclose to the joint standing committee of the
12 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human
14 services matters information concerning the death from
unnatural causes of a patient admitted to a state mental
health institute. The disclosure must occur within 5 days
of the death. A person receiving the disclosure information
under this paragraph may not discuss or disclose that
information other than in executive session;

16 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental
20 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to disclose information
22 concerning the death from unnatural causes of a patient admitted
24 to a state mental health institute to the Joint Standing
26 Committee on Health and Human Services. The disclosure may occur
only when the committee is in executive session and must occur
within 5 days of the death. No one receiving the information may
discuss or disclose it outside of executive session.