

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1744

S.P. 579

In Senate, April 3, 1997

An Act to Establish Acute Crisis Stabilization Beds for Children in this State.

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 PENDLETON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative KANE of Saco and
Senators: LONGLEY of Waldo, MITCHELL of Penobscot, Representatives: BROOKS of
Winterport, JOYNER of Hollis, PIEH of Bremen, QUINT of Portland, SNOWE-MELLO of
Poland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA c. 6, sub-c. V is enacted to read:

6 SUBCHAPTER V

8 COMMUNITY-BASED BEDS FOR CHILDREN

10 §6261. Development of community acute crisis stabilization beds

12 The Department of Human Services and the Department of
14 Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
16 shall establish community-based acute crisis stabilization beds
for children as an alternative to inpatient psychiatric
hospitalization.

18 §6262. Annual report

20 Beginning January 15, 1998, the Department of Human Services
22 and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and
24 Substance Abuse Services shall submit an annual progress report
on the development of community-based beds for children under
this subchapter to the joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources matters.

26
28 SUMMARY

30 Currently, there is very little opportunity for children who
32 are in need of acute crisis stabilization to receive those
34 services in a nonhospital, community-based setting. For many
36 children, crisis stabilization beds are a more appropriate
38 short-term mental health placement. These placements can be more
40 cost-effective and have proven to be clinically sound. This bill
requires the Department of Human Services and the Department of
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to
develop community-based acute crisis stabilization beds for
children and to report annually on the progress of the
development.