

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 2153

S.P. 794

In Senate, January 21, 1998

An Act Concerning Rural Hospital Care.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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 PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §304-A, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 725,
§1, is further amended to read:

6 Except as provided in sections 304-D and, 304-E and 304-G, a
8 certificate of need from the department shall-be is required for:

10 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §304-G** is enacted to read:

12 **§304-G. Rural small hospitals**

14 Notwithstanding section 304-A, subsection 6-A, paragraph B,
16 a rural hospital with fewer than 100 licensed acute care beds may
18 change the existing bed complement of the hospital to provide a
20 particular level of care without receiving a certificate of need
22 under this chapter.

24 **SUMMARY**

26 Under current law, a hospital must obtain a certificate of
need before it increases the number of beds licensed or certified
by the Department of Human Services to provide a particular level
of care by more than 10% or more than 5 beds. This bill exempts
rural small hospitals from that requirement.