

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

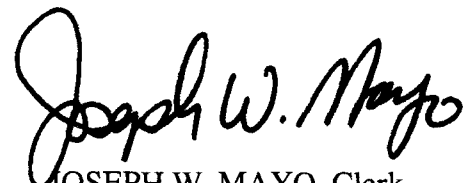
No. 1902

H.P. 1319

House of Representatives, March 16, 1999

**An Act to Allow Emergency Room Personnel to Search Patients Who
have Threatened Themselves or Others.**

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FRECHETTE of Biddeford.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUMPS of China, CHIZMAR of Lisbon, McALEVEY of
Waterboro, O'BRIEN of Augusta, QUINT of Portland, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, TOBIN of
Dexter, Senator: MURRAY of Penobscot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1718** is enacted to read:

6 **§1718. Search patients**

8 An emergency room physician or a registered nurse or
10 designee may conduct a search of a patient to determine whether
12 the patient possesses any article or substance that may be used
14 to harm the patient or others in the following circumstances:

16 1. Threat to inflict injury. The patient has made a threat
18 to inflict injury upon the patient or others; or

20 2. Under influence of drugs or alcohol. The attending
22 physician or nurse has reason to believe that the patient is
under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes certain emergency room personnel to search a patient who may pose a threat to the patient or others.