

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2347

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H.P. 1681

House of Representatives, January 5, 2000

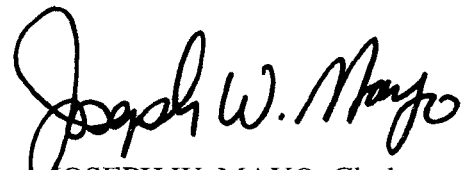
**An Act to Require Oversight of Strategic Planning Conducted by the  
Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse  
Services, Including Long-term Care Needs of the Chronically Mentally Ill.**

(EMERGENCY)

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

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Winterport.  
Cosponsored by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and  
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, BRAGDON of Bangor, DUGAY of Cherryfield, KANE  
of Saco, LOVETT of Scarborough, SAXL of Bangor, SHIELDS of Auburn, WILLIAMS of  
Orono.

2           **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

4  
6           **Whereas,** Public Law 1999, chapter 401 authorized the  
Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and the  
8           Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance  
Abuse Services to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on  
10           Appropriations and Financial Affairs regarding a new forensic  
unit; and

12           **Whereas,** the report is require to be made by January 14,  
2000, shortly after the Second Regular Session of the 119th  
14           Legislature convenes; and

16           **Whereas,** the current law fails to require the commissioners  
to report to the committee that oversees matters involving mental  
18           health, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human  
Services; and

20           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
22           create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
24           necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

26  
28           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

30           **Sec. 1. PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. A, §1, under the caption**  
32           **"ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT**  
OF," in that part relating to "Bureau of General Services - Capital  
Construction and Improvement Reserve Fund," is amended by amending  
the blocked paragraph to read:

34  
36           Provides funds for the  
programming study,  
38           feasibility planning and  
design work in fiscal year  
2000 for the new Forensic  
40           Unit. The Commissioner of  
Administrative and Financial  
42           Services and the Commissioner  
of Mental Health, Mental  
44           Retardation and Substance  
Abuse Services, working  
46           jointly, shall report to the  
Joint Standing Committee on  
48           Appropriations and Financial  
Affairs by January 14, 2000  
50           and to the Joint Standing

Committee on Health and Human  
Services by February 29, 2000  
concerning the results of  
this study.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

## SUMMARY

Current law requires the Commissioner of Administrative and  
Financial Services and the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental  
Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to report back to the  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
regarding the results of a programming study, feasibility  
planning and design work for a new forensic unit to provide  
assistance to the mentally ill.

This bill requires the commissioners additionally to report,  
by February 29, 2000, the results to the Joint Standing Committee  
on Health and Human Services.