

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2360

S.P. 908

In Senate, January 12, 2000

An Act to Provide Equitable Delivery of Mental Health Services.

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, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President LAWRENCE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative WHEELER of Eliot and
Senators: DOUGLASS of Androscoggin, PARADIS of Aroostook, PINGREE of Knox,
Representatives: ANDREWS of York, COLLINS of Wells, FULLER of Manchester,
LEMONT of Kittery, MURPHY of Berwick.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1204, sub-§10 is enacted to read:**

6 **10. Competitive bidding.** The commissioner shall place out
8 for competitive bidding all contracts and renewals of contracts
 for mental health services to all client groups served by the
 department.

10 **Sec. 2. Delivery of mental health services.** The Commissioner of
12 Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
 shall by rule ensure the equitable delivery of mental health
14 services to consumers. Rules adopted pursuant to this Act are
 routine technical rules as defined by the Maine Revised Statutes,
 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

16 Rules adopted must ensure:

18 1. The availability of voluntary and involuntary beds for
20 transition, vocational rehabilitation, day treatment and
 residence;

22 2. That home visits and services are included in the
24 services offered to the consumers who reside in voluntary and
 involuntary residences;

26 3. That funding for all mental health services is
28 distributed equitably and is available to all geographic regions
 of the State; and

30 4. That the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation
32 and Substance Abuse Services works closely with the Maine
 affiliate of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill to ensure
34 satisfactory treatment and options to all consumers.

36 **SUMMARY**

38 The purpose of this bill is to provide equitable delivery of
40 mental health services to all consumers in the State.