

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

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Legislative Document

No. 1781

S.P. 698

In Senate, December 30, 2005

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**An Act To Require Mandatory Training for Law Enforcement  
Officers and Prosecutors Regarding Interaction with People with  
Developmental Disabilities, Including Autism Spectrum Disorders**

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

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 28, 2005. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Senators: PERRY of Penobscot, RAYE of Washington, Representative:  
LERMAN of Augusta.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2804-C, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

6 **6. Training regarding people with autism and developmental**  
7 **disabilities.** The board shall include in the basic law  
8 **enforcement training program a block of instruction aimed**  
9 **specifically at identifying and safely interacting with persons**  
10 **with autism and other developmental disabilities and reducing**  
11 **barriers to reporting crimes against people with autism and**  
12 **developmental disabilities and addressing the unique challenges**  
13 **posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses with autism and**  
14 **developmental disabilities.**

15 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §251, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

16 **4. Continuing legal education.** In addition to the  
17 **requirements of Maine Bar Rule 12, a prosecutor shall complete**  
18 **one credit hour in each calendar year primarily concerned with**  
19 **reducing barriers to reporting crimes against people with autism**  
20 **and developmental disabilities and addressing the unique**  
21 **challenges posed by cases that involve victims or witnesses with**  
22 **autism and developmental disabilities.**

23 **Sec. 3. Required recertification law enforcement training.** The  
24 Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy shall  
25 include requirements in its next available schedule of  
26 recertification training for all law enforcement officers a block  
27 of instruction aimed specifically at reducing barriers to  
28 reporting crimes against people with autism and developmental  
29 disabilities and addressing the unique challenges posed by cases  
30 that involve victims or witnesses with autism and developmental  
31 disabilities.

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35 **SUMMARY**

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37 **This bill requires mandatory training for law enforcement**  
38 **officers and prosecutors regarding people with autism and**  
39 **developmental disabilities.**  
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