

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1449

H.P. 1019

House of Representatives, March 16, 2007

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### **An Act To Provide Outreach and Training on Dementia-related Protocols for Law Enforcement Officers**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GROSE of Woolwich.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland,  
FISHER of Brewer, LEWIN of Eliot, LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, PERRY of Calais, WALCOTT  
of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2917** is enacted to read:

3 **§2917. Outreach and training**

4 The commissioner shall develop and provide outreach and training programs for law  
5 enforcement officers throughout the State concerning:

6 1. **Cognitively impaired missing persons.** Procedures and protocols to be used  
7 when a cognitively impaired person is missing, including instances in which a person  
8 with Alzheimer's disease or a dementia-related condition wanders, to ensure a timely,  
9 effective and consistent response.

10 **Sec. 2. Commissioner's task force.** The Commissioner of Public Safety shall  
11 convene a task force of members representing the State Police, local law enforcement  
12 officers, sheriffs and game wardens to review and evaluate procedures and protocols used  
13 by law enforcement agencies in response to incidents of persons who are cognitively  
14 impaired and who wander or become missing. The task force shall aid the commissioner  
15 in developing the outreach and training program required under the Maine Revised  
16 Statutes, Title 25, section 2917, subsection 1 to ensure that the response to those incidents  
17 is consistent, effective and timely. The commissioner shall submit a report summarizing  
18 the work of the task force and including any proposed legislation to the Joint Standing  
19 Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by January 4, 2008. The Joint Standing  
20 Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety may submit a bill based on the report to  
21 the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 Under this bill, the Commissioner of Public Safety will convene a task force  
24 consisting of representatives of public safety agencies to aid in the development of  
25 procedures and protocols to be used to ensure timely, effective and consistent responses  
26 by law enforcement personnel when persons who are cognitively impaired, including  
27 persons with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related conditions, wander off or  
28 become missing. The bill further directs the commissioner to provide outreach and  
29 training programs to law enforcement officers on those protocols and procedures.