

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 637

H.P. 451

House of Representatives, February 19, 2009

### **An Act To Ensure Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAIN of Orono.  
Cosponsored by Senator SCHNEIDER of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §5003-A, sub-§2, ¶F,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 356, §16  
3 and affected by §31, is amended to read:

4 F. Strive toward having a sufficient number of personnel who are qualified and  
5 experienced to provide treatment that is beneficial to persons with mental retardation  
6 or autism; and

7 **Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §5003-A, sub-§2, ¶G,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 356, §16  
8 and affected by §31, is amended to read:

9 G. Encourage other departments to provide to persons with mental retardation or  
10 autism those services that are required by law, and in particular:

11 (1) The commissioner shall work actively with the Commissioner of Education  
12 to ensure that persons with mental retardation or autism receive appropriate  
13 services upon being diagnosed with either disability regardless of the degree of  
14 retardation or autism or accompanying disabilities or handicaps;

15 (2) The commissioner shall advise other departments about standards and  
16 policies pertaining to administration, staff, quality of care, quality of treatment,  
17 health and safety of clients, rights of clients, community relations and licensing  
18 procedures and other areas that affect persons with mental retardation or autism  
19 residing in facilities licensed by the department; and

20 (3) The commissioner shall inform the joint standing committee of the  
21 Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources matters about areas where  
22 increased cooperation by other departments is necessary in order to improve the  
23 delivery of services to persons with mental retardation or autism; and

24 **Sec. 3. 34-B MRSA §5003-A, sub-§2, ¶H** is enacted to read:

25 H. Provide health coverage through the MaineCare program under Title 22, chapter  
26 855 for an adult with mental retardation or autism who is an incapacitated person  
27 who is financially eligible for the program.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide health  
30 coverage under the MaineCare program for an adult with mental retardation or autism  
31 who is incapacitated and financially eligible for MaineCare.