

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1076

H.P. 743

House of Representatives, March 17, 2009

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### An Act To Create a Statewide Training and Protocol for Responding to Mental Health Crises

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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 McCABE of Skowhegan.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and  
Representatives: CAREY of Lewiston, CLEARY of Houlton, GOODE of Bangor, LEWIN of  
Eliot, MARTIN of Orono, PERCY of Phippsburg, STUCKEY of Portland, Senator: MILLS of  
Somerset.

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

2 Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2803-A, sub-§8-D is enacted to read:

3 8-D. Training of law enforcement officers dealing with people with mental  
4 illness. The board shall establish statewide protocols and a training program concerning  
5 the training of law enforcement officers to ensure that they are trained in serving people  
6 with mental illness. The training criteria must include 4 hours of training concerning a  
7 behavioral health crisis to be provided by an accredited mental health provider in the  
8 initial training of the law enforcement officer and a specific number of hours for periodic  
9 review, as decided by the board. The board shall establish and maintain a statewide  
10 quality assurance and improvement committee and review the training requirements on  
11 an annual basis. The board shall adopt rules, which are routine technical rules pursuant to  
12 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, regarding the requirements and authority of the  
13 statewide quality assurance and improvement committee;

14 Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §2102, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

15 1-A. Training of firefighters dealing with people with mental illness. The State  
16 Fire Marshal, pursuant to duties authorized under Title 25, section 2396, subsection 7,  
17 shall establish statewide protocols and a training program concerning the training of  
18 firefighters in each department to ensure that they are trained in serving people with  
19 mental illness. The training criteria must include 4 hours of training concerning a  
20 behavioral health crisis to be provided by an accredited mental health provider in the  
21 initial training of the firefighters and a specific number of hours for periodic review, as  
22 decided by the State Fire Marshal, who shall review the training requirements on an  
23 annual basis. The State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules, which are routine technical rules  
24 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, regarding the requirements established  
25 by that office.

26 Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§2, ¶K is enacted to read:

27 K. The board shall establish, through the statewide quality assurance and  
28 improvement committee, statewide protocols and a training program concerning the  
29 licensing of first responders to ensure that first responders are trained in serving  
30 people with mental illness. The training criteria must include 4 hours of training  
31 concerning a behavioral health crisis to be provided by an accredited mental health  
32 provider in the initial licensing requirements and a specific number of hours for  
33 recertification, as decided by the committee. The committee shall review the  
34 licensing requirements on an annual basis. The board shall adopt rules, which are  
35 routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, regarding the  
36 requirements and authority of the statewide quality assurance and improvement  
37 committee.

## 38 SUMMARY

39 This bill requires the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees, the State  
40 Fire Marshal and the Emergency Medical Services' Board to establish statewide protocols

1 and a training program for firefighters, police officers and first responders to ensure that  
2 they are trained in serving people with mental illness. Training must include 4 hours of  
3 initial training and periodic review, and programs and protocols must be reviewed  
4 annually.