

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1276

S.P. 457

In Senate, March 31, 2009

An Act To Ensure That High-quality Services Are Provided to Behavioral Health Clients

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

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative EVES of North Berwick and
Senators: BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, MARRACHÉ of Kennebec, Representatives:
CAMPBELL of Newfield, JONES of Mount Vernon, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland.

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

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1224 is enacted to read:

§1224. Standards for private behavioral health care practitioners

A private behavioral health care practitioner who contracts with or is reimbursed by the department for providing services to a client must be affiliated with a nationally accredited organization that provides oversight of the practitioner and sets standards for best practices and quality assurance, including standards governing crisis services and provision of coverage when a practitioner is unavailable or, if the private behavioral health care practitioner is not so affiliated, the practitioner must meet these same standards.

SUMMARY

This bill requires a private behavioral health care practitioner who contracts with or is reimbursed by the Department of Health and Human Services for providing services to a client to be affiliated with a nationally accredited organization that provides oversight of the practitioner and sets standards for best practices and quality assurance, including standards governing crisis services and provision of coverage when a practitioner is unavailable or, if the private behavioral health care practitioner is not so affiliated, to meet these same standards.