

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 966

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H.P. 665

House of Representatives, March 17, 2015

### An Act To Assist Patients in Need of Psychiatric Services

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MALABY of Hancock.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, VACHON of Scarborough,  
Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, McCORMICK of Kennebec.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to take steps to help provide acute psychiatric care in an inpatient  
6 setting by increasing the availability of inpatient beds.

7 The bill will seek to do the following:

8 1. Create and fund additional psychiatric beds for geriatric patients;

9 2. Review and make changes to the bed hold regulations for nursing homes and  
10 group homes to create incentives to take difficult mental health patients back after a  
11 hospital stay;

12 3. Review and make changes to the bed hold regulations for nursing homes and  
13 group homes to create penalties for facilities that refuse to take difficult mental health  
14 patients back after a hospital stay;

15 4. Provide psychiatric urgent care centers with accompanying medically supervised  
16 crisis beds;

17 5. Create and fund additional psychiatric observation units;

18 6. Create an effective and professional mental health placement rapid response team  
19 or ombudsman in the Department of Health and Human Services; and

20 7. Provide additional MaineCare reimbursement for long-stay mental health  
21 emergency department patients and patients awaiting placement in psychiatric units.