

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 249

H.P. 182

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

An Act To Fund and Enhance the Maine Diversion Alert Program

(EMERGENCY)

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHERMAN of Hodgdon.
Cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook and
Representatives: McELWEE of Caribou, TUELL of East Machias.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** Maine is experiencing a dramatic increase in opioid overdose deaths; and

4 **Whereas,** research has demonstrated that, although they are not the only source,
5 physicians are the leading source of prescription painkillers for persons at high risk for
6 painkiller overdose; and

7 **Whereas,** research suggests that the Maine Diversion Alert Program helps
8 prescribers make informed decisions and improves prescribing practices; and

9 **Whereas,** the Maine Opiate Collaborative's Law Enforcement Task Force
10 recommends improving intelligence gathering and sharing among law enforcement
11 agencies to include local, county, state and federal entities; and

12 **Whereas,** the Maine Diversion Alert Program is the only statewide drug charge
13 database that includes the majority of local, county, state and federal drug-related arrests
14 made in Maine; and

15 **Whereas,** the Maine Diversion Alert Program can be enhanced to create a resource
16 for law enforcement that improves intelligence gathering and sharing among local,
17 county, state and federal agencies; and

18 **Whereas,** the Maine Diversion Alert Program requires additional funding in fiscal
19 year 2017-18 and fiscal year 2018-19 and beyond to maintain the program statewide; and

20 **Whereas,** this legislation provides funds for the Maine Diversion Alert Program
21 during fiscal year 2017-18 and fiscal year 2018-19; and

22 **Whereas,** in order for the funds to be available in fiscal year 2017-18, this
23 legislation needs to take effect before the start of that fiscal year; and

24 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
25 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
26 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
27 therefore,

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

29 **Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
30 allocations are made.

31 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

32 **Administration - Public Safety 0088**

33 Initiative: Provides funds to continue and enhance the functionality of the Maine
34 Diversion Alert Program.

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