

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 676

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H.P. 467

House of Representatives, February 28, 2017

**Resolve, To Study the Development of a Behavioral Health Unit at  
the Cumberland County Jail**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, COOPER of Yarmouth, DENNO of Cumberland,  
FAY of Raymond, MOONEN of Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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**Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Corrections and Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office to study development of behavioral health unit at the Cumberland County Jail. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections and the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office shall jointly study the development of a behavioral health unit at the Cumberland County Jail. The study must consider the most effective way of housing prisoners with behavioral issues at the Cumberland County Jail and providing the prisoners with support, including substance abuse and mental health services and a diversion program to allow for the rehabilitation of the prisoners, and make a recommendation for the development of the behavioral health unit; and be it further

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**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections and the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office shall submit a joint report and recommendations, including recommended legislation, resulting from the study under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety no later than December 6, 2017. The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety may report out legislation based upon the study and recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

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**SUMMARY**

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This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections and the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office to jointly study and recommend a proposal for the development of a behavioral health unit at the Cumberland County Jail to provide support such as substance abuse and mental health services and a diversion program to allow for the rehabilitation of prisoners with behavioral issues. This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections and the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office to submit the results of the study along with recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, who may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.