

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1335

H.P. 929

House of Representatives, April 6, 2017

**An Act To Provide Youth Mental Health First Aid Training to
Secondary School Health Educators**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator BREEN of Cumberland and
Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, FARNSWORTH of Portland, FULLER of Lewiston,
HERRICK of Paris, HILLIARD of Belgrade, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, RECKITT of South
Portland, Senator: CARPENTER of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 10** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 10**

4 **YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING**

5 **§6671. Youth mental health first aid training**

6 The department shall establish a youth mental health first aid training program for
7 health educators in secondary schools pursuant to this section.

8 **1. Recipients of training.** The department shall schedule training for and ensure
9 training is provided to health educators in secondary schools responsible for
10 implementing health education pursuant to section 4723.

11 **2. Providers of training.** The department shall ensure training is delivered by
12 trainers who are properly certified by a national organization for behavioral health as
13 designated by the department to provide training pursuant to subsection 3.

14 **3. Content of training.** The training provided pursuant to this section must be in
15 compliance with a course of instruction in youth mental health first aid operated by the
16 national organization for behavioral health under subsection 2 and include training on the
17 skills, resources and knowledge necessary to assist students in crisis to connect with
18 appropriate local mental health care services, training on mental health resources,
19 including the location of local community mental health centers, and training on action
20 plans and protocols for referral to such resources. Recipients of the training must also
21 receive training to:

22 A. Safely de-escalate crisis situations;

23 B. Recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, including such psychiatric
24 conditions as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major clinical depression and anxiety
25 disorders; and

26 C. Timely refer students to mental health services in the early stages of their
27 development of mental disorders to avoid subsequent behavioral health care and to
28 enhance the effectiveness of mental health services.

29 **4. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted
30 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,
31 subchapter 2-A.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill requires the Department of Education to establish a program to ensure health
34 educators in secondary schools receive training from properly credentialed trainers in
35 youth mental health first aid.