

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

Legislative Document

No. 1715

H.P. 1195

House of Representatives, December 22, 2017

An Act To Ensure Rural Patient Populations Receive Safe and Effective Health Care

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative STANLEY of Medway.
Cosponsored by Senator CARSON of Cumberland and
Representatives: GOLDEN of Lewiston, HERBIG of Belfast, NADEAU of Winslow, TUELL
of East Machias, Senator: JACKSON of Aroostook.

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 ensure that patient populations located in rural areas of the State
6 receive safe and effective health care by placing certain reporting and approval
7 requirements on an acute care or critical access hospital that is considering closure or
8 terminating or reducing services. Any such hospital would need to provide at least 6
9 months' notice to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
10 health and human services matters prior to the planned date of closure of the hospital or
11 the termination or reduction of services. The hospital would also need to provide a study
12 to the committee conducted by an independent 3rd party describing the impact of the
13 closure or the termination or reduction of services on the patient population. Any closure
14 or any termination or reduction of services would require approval prior to taking effect.