

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 717

H.P. 522

House of Representatives, February 11, 2019

An Act To Provide Comprehensive Mental Health Treatment Reform

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 CRAVEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Representatives: AUSTIN of Skowhegan, CLOUTIER of Lewiston,
FARNSWORTH of Portland, FAY of Raymond, MADIGAN of Waterville, McCREA of Fort
Fairfield, PERRY of Calais.

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 create a seamless crisis services system that allows high-risk
6 patients timely access to inpatient care and to increase communication within the crisis
7 services system to better manage patients after discharge. The purpose of this bill is to
8 save lives and improve the overall quality and integrity of the crisis services system by:

9 1. Creating a single point of entry for a high-risk patient by designating an
10 independent entity of a hospital to provide clinical assessment of the patient and
11 determine whether the patient meets inpatient criteria of care;

12 2. Adopting universal criteria under which priority admission for a patient is based
13 on acuteness of crisis and length of stay in an emergency room;

14 3. Requiring hospitals to communicate with and make referrals to community
15 providers for aftercare within 24 hours following discharge from the emergency room or
16 inpatient treatment when patients are most at risk of suicide; and

17 4. Exploring further significant upgrades, access and training in developing
18 prevention and postintervention services with the goal of avoiding hospitalization of
19 patients with mental illness who are not in need of psychiatric hospitalization and can be
20 stabilized in the community.