

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 176

H.P. 117

House of Representatives, January 13, 2023

**An Act to Increase the Safety of Patients and Staff at the Dorothea
Dix Psychiatric Center and the Riverview Psychiatric Center**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec and
Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, RECKITT
of South Portland, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA c. 1, sub-c. 9** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 9**

4 **EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS AT STATE INSTITUTIONS**

5 **§1971. Staffing**

6 The department shall establish and implement staffing levels at a state institution so
7 that no fewer than 2 appropriately skilled staff are with a resident at any given time. The
8 department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this
9 section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

10 **§1972. Technology**

11 The department shall maintain technology used by staff to communicate and report
12 emergency situations within a state institution and to monitor the state institution.

13 **§1973. Annual report**

14 Beginning January 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, the department shall report to the
15 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human
16 services matters regarding injuries at state institutions. The report must include the number
17 and type of injuries sustained by staff and any associated loss of work time, the number of
18 employees who have permanently left employment due to an injury received at a state
19 institution and the number and type of injuries sustained by residents.

20 **Sec. 2. Technology improvements.** No later than January 1, 2024, the Department
21 of Health and Human Services shall update and repair technology used by staff to
22 communicate and report emergency situations within a state institution as defined in the
23 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1001, subsection 8 and to monitor the state
24 institution.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and
27 maintain certain staffing levels at the Riverview Psychiatric Center and the Dorothea Dix
28 Psychiatric Center and to update and maintain certain technology at the psychiatric centers.
29 It requires the department to report annually to the joint standing committee of the
30 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters regarding injuries
31 of staff and residents of the psychiatric centers.