

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 430

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H.P. 263

House of Representatives, February 2, 2023

### An Act to Provide Translation Services for Hospital Patients

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.  
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec and  
Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, RISEMAN of Harrison,  
SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: DUSON of  
Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1728** is enacted to read:

3 **§1728. Translator and translation**

4 Except for in an emergency, a hospital shall make every effort to provide an appropriate  
5 adult translator for a patient of the hospital who cannot understand English. A hospital  
6 shall provide to a patient who cannot understand English any discharge instructions, any  
7 directions for a prescription medication or anything else the patient must sign in the course  
8 of the patient's treatment or as a condition of the patient's release in a language that the  
9 patient understands. For purposes of this section, "hospital" has the same meaning as in  
10 section 328, subsection 14.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires hospitals to make every effort to provide an appropriate adult  
13 translator for a patient of the hospital who cannot understand English and to provide any  
14 discharge instructions, any directions for prescription medications or anything else the  
15 patient must sign in the course of the patient's treatment or as a condition of the patient's  
16 release in a language that the patient understands.