

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 847

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H.P. 536

House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

### **An Act to Support Law Enforcement in Interactions with Individuals with Histories of Trauma**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, GATTINE of Westbrook, LOOKNER of Portland, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA Pt. 16** is enacted to read:

3 **PART 16**

4 **TRAUMA-INFORMED TRAINING AND EMBEDDED CLINICAL SOCIAL**  
5 **WORKERS**

6 **CHAPTER 901**

7 **TRAUMA-INFORMED TRAINING AND EMBEDDED CLINICAL SOCIAL**  
8 **WORKERS PROGRAM**

9 **§8001. Trauma-informed training and embedded clinical social workers program**

10 **1. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
11 following terms have the following meanings.

12 **A. "Trauma-informed training"** means training to recognize the presence of trauma  
13 **symptoms and acknowledge the role that trauma can play in people's lives, including**  
14 **by engaging with individuals with histories of trauma.**

15 **2. Training program and embedded clinical social workers.** The Department of  
16 **Public Safety shall develop and implement a program to provide law enforcement officers**  
17 **with trauma-informed training. The department shall work with municipalities to develop**  
18 **and implement a program to employ clinical social workers to work embedded within**  
19 **municipal police departments.**

20 **3. Rules.** The Commissioner of Public Safety may adopt rules to implement this  
21 **section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in**  
22 **Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.**

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a program  
25 to provide law enforcement officers with trauma-informed training and requires the  
26 department to work with municipalities to develop and implement a program to employ  
27 clinical social workers to work embedded within municipal police departments.