

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 895, L D 1400, "An Act to Allow Social Workers to Diagnose Organic Mental Illnesses"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Allow Certain Social Workers to Diagnose Organic Mental Illnesses'

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies, and

Whereas, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association, now recognizes autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, intellectual disabilities and global developmental delay as organic mental illnesses, and

Whereas, current Maine law, which prohibits certain licensed social workers from diagnosing organic mental illness, is outdated, and

Whereas, the inability of certain licensed social workers to diagnose organic mental illnesses within their scope of practice has led to delays in treatment; and

Whereas, it is important to amend this outdated statutory provision and align Maine law with the recognized scope of practice for social workers as soon as possible to increase access to treatment for mental illness, and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now, therefore,'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following

'Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §7053-A, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c 736, §12, is repealed and the following enacted in its place

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 895, L D 1400

1 A person licensed under this chapter may act in accordance with the following
2 requirements'

3 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following

4 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
5 takes effect when approved '

6 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
7 number to read consecutively

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This amendment clarifies the provision of the bill that removes the prohibition on social
10 workers' diagnosing organic mental illness and adds an emergency preamble and
11 emergency clause to the bill

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT