

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN
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PUBLIC LAWS
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E. Eliminate its own duplicative and unnecessary administrative procedures and practices in the system of care for mentally retarded persons and encourage other departments to do the same; and clearly define areas of responsibility in order to economically utilize present resources;

F. Strive toward having a sufficient number of personnel who are qualified and experienced to provide treatment which is beneficial to the mentally retarded clients; and

G. Encourage other departments to provide to mentally retarded persons those services which are required by law. In particular, the department shall:

(1) Work actively to ensure that its mentally retarded clients, as provided for in Title 20, chapter 404, shall receive education and training services beginning at age 6 regardless of the degree of retardation, or accompanying disabilities or handicaps;

(2) Advise the Department of Human Services about standards and policies pertaining to administration, staff, quality of care, quality of treatment, health and safety of clients, rights of clients, community relations and licensing procedures and other areas which affect mentally retarded persons residing in facilities licensed by the Department of Human Services; and

(3) Inform the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services of the Legislature about areas where increased cooperation by other departments is necessary in order to improve the delivery of services to mentally retarded persons.

3. Plan. The department, through the bureau, shall prepare a plan, subject to the following provisions:

A. The plan shall indicate the most effective and efficient manner in which to implement services and programs for mentally retarded persons, while safeguarding and respecting the legal and human rights of these persons;

B. The plan shall be prepared biennially and shall be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services of the Legislature by no later than January 15th of every odd-numbered year; and

C. The committee shall study the plan and shall make recommendations to the Legislature with respect to funding improvements in programs and services to mentally retarded persons.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 465

AN ACT Relating to Mental Illness as an Impediment to Divorce.

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

Sec. 1. 19 MRSA § 691, sub-§ 1, ¶¶ G and H, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 226, § 1, are amended to read:

G. Cruel and abusive treatment; ~~and~~

H. Irreconcilable marital differences; and

I. Mental illness requiring confinement in a mental institution for at least 7 consecutive years prior to the commencement of the action.

Sec. 2. 19 MRSA § 691, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 226, § 1, is amended by inserting after the 2nd paragraph the following new paragraph to read:

If the alleged cause is mental illness, as provided in paragraph I, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the interests of the defendant.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 466

AN ACT to Create a Board of Registration of Substance Abuse Counselors.

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA § 8001, 2nd sentence, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 78, § 36, is amended to read:

The department shall be composed of the following bureaus, boards and commissions:

Board of Examiners on Speech Pathology and Audiology;

Bureau of Banking;

Bureau of Consumer Protection;

Bureau of Insurance;

Electricians' Examining Board;

Oil Burner Men's Licensing Board;

Maine State Boxing Commission;

Real Estate Commission;