

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1748

RESOLVE, AUTHORIZING THE  
STREAMLINING OF INFORMATION  
PROCESSING BY INCOME SUPPLEMENTA-  
TION AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Sen. Bustin

HSE-EMERG. ENACT.  
SEN-EMERG. ENACT.  
GOV-EMER. SIGNED  
RESOLVE 83, c. 41

SUMMARY: This resolve, based on LD 1564, requires a study of information-processing by state agencies involved in income supplementation and social service programs. The expressed intent is to improve services to clients, diminish unnecessary paperwork, and establish compatible computerized systems in the different agencies.

The state agencies involved - Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Division of Community Services and Bureau of Central Computer Services - are to study how best to achieve these results. A progress report is due in February, 1984, and a full report by December 15, 1984, to the Executive Department and the Legislature.

A 7-member Advisory Committee, called the Joint Select Committee on Interagency Information Processing, is also established, including 2 legislators, and a chair designated by the chairs of the H&IS Committee. The Joint Select Committee is to meet at least once every two months.

1756

AN ACT RELATING TO  
INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION

Rep. D. Carroll

OTP  
HSE-EMERG. ENACT.  
SEN-EMERG. ENACT.  
GOV-EMERG. SIGNED  
PL 83, c. 557

SUMMARY: The bill changed the provision in current law that allowed for the involuntary admission of a person found to be dangerous because of their mental retardation. The causal link between the condition and the behavior cannot be established; therefore, the purpose of the bill was to provide for findings of the two separate criteria as conditions for "involuntary admission."

The bill was enacted as an emergency measure in response to a recent incident in which a mentally retarded person who had been charged with a crime could not be committed, was released and committed another crime.

House Amendment "A" (H-398) and House Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" (H-415) made several changes: Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays count as part of the 5 day period during which the facility head is to file an application for involuntary admission; definition of "substantial risk to other persons" is strengthened; the District Court's hearing is to be held within 10 days, not 15, and a continuance for 10 additional days can only be requested by the client or his counsel, not "any party" as previously stated.