



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 440

LR 1147(02)

## An Act To Create a Secure, Therapeutic Mental Health Unit

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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### Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund  
Current biennium cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds  
Current biennium revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish one or more Secure Mental Health Units within county jails or regional jails for the purpose of providing observation, mental health evaluation for the purposes of determining competency or criminal responsibility, risk assessments and therapeutic mental health care for certain eligible individuals. For comparison, the DHHS currently has a contract with an out of state provider to provide this service to similar individuals at a cost of \$494 per bed per day. It is not known at this time how many units would be created, how many total beds would be needed, what staffing levels would be or when these units would be created. Thus, no estimate of the increased cost can be made at this time.

The bill also requires the DHHS, in consultation with any county sheriffs impacted, to submit a report to the legislature regarding the current operations of the units and recommendations for optimal operations of the units. Any additional costs to the DHHS to consult with the Sheriffs and create and submit the report and recommendations are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.