An Act to Increase the Safety of Patients and Staff at the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center and the Riverview Psychiatric Center

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec and Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, RECKITT of South Portland, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA c. 1, sub-c. 9 is enacted to read:

**SUBCHAPTER 9**

EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS AT STATE INSTITUTIONS

§1971. Staffing

The department shall establish and implement staffing levels at a state institution so that no fewer than 2 appropriately skilled staff are with a resident at any given time. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§1972. Technology

The department shall maintain technology used by staff to communicate and report emergency situations within a state institution and to monitor the state institution.

§1973. Annual report

Beginning January 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, the department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters regarding injuries at state institutions. The report must include the number and type of injuries sustained by staff and any associated loss of work time, the number of employees who have permanently left employment due to an injury received at a state institution and the number and type of injuries sustained by residents.

Sec. 2. Technology improvements. No later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services shall update and repair technology used by staff to communicate and report emergency situations within a state institution as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1001, subsection 8 and to monitor the state institution.

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and maintain certain staffing levels at the Riverview Psychiatric Center and the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center and to update and maintain certain technology at the psychiatric centers. It requires the department to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters regarding injuries of staff and residents of the psychiatric centers.