



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 785

LR 532(01)

An Act To Change the Standard for Assessing Risk of Serious Harm

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. Cardone of Bangor

Committee: Judiciary

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Potential current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill allows a medical practitioner to consider a person's treatment history, current behavior and inability to make an informed decision in determining whether there is a likelihood of serious harm when examining a patient for the purposes of recommending hospitalization. Current law allows this consideration only for progressive treatment programs. Expanding the criteria could increase the number of referrals to the state psychiatric hospitals. One new patient in a state psychiatric hospital has an annual room and board cost of \$555,712.50 (\$1,522.50 per day x 365). Since it is unknown how this revised language will be utilized by medical practitioners and how many new referrals would be made, no cost estimate is made at this time.