



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 297

H.P. 221

House of Representatives, January 22, 2019

**An Act To Strengthen Brain Injury Resources for Underserved
Populations, Including Opioid Overdose Brain Injury Survivors**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, HYMANSON of York, MATLACK of St. George,
O'CONNOR of Berwick, STOVER of Boothbay, WARREN of Hallowell, Senator: MOORE
of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3088-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§3088-A. Support for underserved populations**

4 Within the limits of its available resources, the department may enter into contracts
5 with organizations representing individuals with a brain injury and their families,
6 bringing together state and national expertise to provide core brain injury support for
7 underserved populations of individuals with an acquired brain injury, including, but not
8 limited to, individuals who experienced an opioid drug overdose resulting in anoxic or
9 hypoxic brain injury, who are veterans, who are experiencing homelessness, who are
10 ineligible for MaineCare and who have a newly acquired brain injury. For the purposes
11 of this section, "core brain injury support" includes, but is not limited to, resource
12 facilitation, brain injury support groups, outreach designed for individuals who have a
13 newly acquired brain injury, access to a joint state and national helpline, information and
14 resource education and family caregiver training. The department shall adopt rules to
15 implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules
16 as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to enter into
19 contracts with organizations representing individuals with a brain injury and their
20 families, bringing together state and national expertise to provide core brain injury
21 support for underserved populations of individuals with an acquired brain injury.