



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1030

H.P. 713

House of Representatives, March 24, 2015

**An Act To Better Coordinate the Work of Mental Health Crisis
Agencies with Law Enforcement Agencies**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DION of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator GERZOFSKY of Cumberland and
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, GILBERT of Jay, MALABY of Hancock,
STUCKEY of Portland, Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA c. 3, sub-c. 3, art. 3** is enacted to read:

3 **ARTICLE 3**

4 **CRISIS INTERVENTION COORDINATION**

5 **§3641. Crisis intervention coordination**

6 The department shall provide assistance to crisis intervention teams, agencies and law
7 enforcement agencies to enable them to coordinate crisis intervention services and to
8 fulfill the terms of the memorandum of understanding required under subsection 2.

9 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
10 following terms have the following meanings.

11 A. "Agency" means a person, firm, association or corporation that provides mental
12 health services through one or more contracts with the department for the purposes of
13 providing crisis services, but does not include the individual or corporate professional
14 practice of one or more psychologists or psychiatrists.

15 B. "Crisis intervention team" means a crisis intervention team established under
16 section 3622.

17 C. "Law enforcement agency" means the State Police, a sheriff's department or a
18 municipal police department.

19 D. "Law enforcement officer" means a person who by virtue of public employment
20 is vested by law with the power to make arrests for crime or serve criminal process.

21 E. "Person in need of mental health crisis services" means a person who appears to a
22 law enforcement officer to be experiencing a mental health crisis or to have an
23 untreated mental illness that compromises the ability of the person to function safely
24 in the community.

25 **2. Memorandum of understanding.** By July 1, 2016, a crisis intervention team or
26 agency shall enter into and sign a memorandum of understanding with each law
27 enforcement agency that provides law enforcement services in the area of the State served
28 by the crisis intervention team or agency. The memorandum of understanding must be
29 effective for 3 years and must be renewed for a 3-year period upon expiration. The
30 memorandum of understanding must include the following:

31 A. A description of the process that the law enforcement agency uses to identify a
32 person in need of mental health crisis services with whom the law enforcement
33 officer has contact in the course of performing official duties, regardless of the
34 custodial standing of the person;

35 B. A description of the protocol that the law enforcement agency uses, within 24
36 hours of contact with a person in need of mental health crisis services, to share a
37 contact report with a crisis intervention team or agency;

1 C. A description of the process the crisis intervention team or agency uses to receive
2 the report provided under paragraph B;

3 D. A description of the protocol the crisis intervention team or agency uses to
4 communicate with the person in need of mental health crisis services or the guardian
5 or family members of that person; and

6 E. A description of the procedures that will be used to convene on a quarterly basis
7 multidisciplinary team meetings between the crisis intervention team or agency and
8 the law enforcement agency to review the experiences of the parties to the
9 memorandum of understanding and to discuss opportunities for improvement in the
10 provision of services to persons in need of mental health crisis services.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance
13 to crisis intervention teams and agencies that provide mental health crisis services and to
14 law enforcement agencies to enable them to coordinate mental health crisis services. The
15 bill sets July 1, 2016 as the date by which a crisis intervention team or agency must enter
16 into and sign a memorandum of understanding with each law enforcement agency that
17 provides law enforcement services in the area of the State served by the crisis
18 intervention team or agency. The bill requires the memorandum of understanding to be
19 effective for 3 years and to be renewed for a 3-year period upon expiration. The
20 memorandum of understanding must include descriptions of the following: the internal
21 processes that the law enforcement agency uses to identify a person in need of mental
22 health crisis services; the protocol that the law enforcement agency uses to share a contact
23 report with a crisis intervention team or agency; the process the crisis intervention team
24 or agency uses to receive the report; the protocol that the crisis intervention team or
25 agency uses to communicate with a person in need of mental health services or the
26 guardian or family members of that person; and the procedures to be used to convene on a
27 quarterly basis multidisciplinary team meetings to review experiences and discuss
28 opportunities for improvement.