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Legislative Document

No. 1322

H.P. 916

House of Representatives, April 4, 2017

An Act Regarding Mental Health First Aid Training for Corrections Personnel

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: COREY of Windham, GERRISH of Lebanon, MAREAN of Hollis,
RECKITT of South Portland, TUELL of East Machias, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators:
JACKSON of Aroostook, ROSEN of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§5-A** is enacted to read:

3 **5-A. Mental health first aid training.** "Mental health first aid training" means
4 training in how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and
5 substance abuse provided by a trainer certified by a nationally recognized organization
6 that provides evidence-based mental health first aid training.

7 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2804-D, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

8 **2. Mental health first aid component.** The basic training course under subsection 1
9 must include 8 hours of mental health first aid training.

10 **Sec. 3. Jails, prisons and correctional facilities to incrementally train all**
11 **corrections personnel in mental health first aid.** Every jail, prison and state
12 correctional facility shall train all corrections officers at the jail, prison or state
13 correctional facility in mental health first aid pursuant to the procedures of this section.
14 Each jail, prison and state correctional facility shall send 2 corrections officers to the
15 Maine Criminal Justice Academy for mental health first aid training as defined in the
16 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2801-A, subsection 5-A. After the first 2
17 corrections officers receive mental health first aid training at the academy, the jail, prison
18 or state correctional facility shall send 2 other corrections officers to the academy for
19 training and repeat this process until all corrections officers at the jail, prison or state
20 correctional facility have received mental health first aid training at the academy. For
21 purposes of this section, "corrections officer" has the same meaning as in Title 25, section
22 2801-A, subsection 2.

23 **Sec. 4. Report.** A jail, prison or state correctional facility under section 3 shall
24 report to the Commissioner of Corrections after all corrections personnel at the facility
25 have received mental health first aid training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy
26 under section 3. When all jails, prisons and state correctional facilities in the State have
27 reported to the commissioner, the commissioner shall report to the joint standing
28 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety
29 matters that the provisions of section 3 have been met.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires that the Maine Criminal Justice Academy provide 8 hours of mental
32 health first aid training as part of basic corrections training and that each jail, prison and
33 correctional facility in the State send 2 corrections officers to the academy for training.
34 After the first 2 corrections officers receive mental health first aid training at the
35 academy, the jail, prison or state correctional facility is required to send 2 other
36 corrections officers to the academy for training and to repeat this process until all
37 corrections officers at the jail, prison or state correctional facility have received mental
38 health first aid training at the academy. This bill requires each jail, prison and
39 correctional facility to report to the Commissioner of Corrections when all corrections
40 officers have received mental health first aid training at the Maine Criminal Justice

1 Academy and the commissioner to report to the joint standing committee of the
2 Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters after
3 receiving the report from all jails, prisons and correctional facilities.