



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 87

S.P. 38

In Senate, January 24, 2013

An Act To Improve Community Mental Health Treatment

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland and
Senators: President ALFOND of Cumberland, BOYLE of Cumberland, GRATWICK of
Penobscot, JACKSON of Aroostook, JOHNSON of Lincoln, LACHOWICZ of Kennebec,
Representative: STUCKEY of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3004, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. K, §33,
3 is further amended to read:

4 **2. General policy.** The department shall develop programs to:

5 A. Promote and support the development and implementation of comprehensive
6 community support systems to ensure community integration, psychiatric
7 rehabilitation and the maintenance of a decent quality of life for persons with chronic
8 mental illness in each of the mental health service areas in the State; ~~and~~

9 B. Strengthen the capacity of families, natural networks, self-help groups and other
10 community resources in order to improve the support for and the rehabilitation and
11 recovery of persons with chronic mental illness;

12 C. Provide medically necessary health and mental health services to persons with
13 chronic mental illness in the least restrictive setting that is consistent with the person's
14 choice and individual treatment plan and within the person's chosen community; and

15 D. Provide housing options to persons with chronic mental illness including a
16 person's home or group residential setting or another configuration according to the
17 person's choice.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop programs
20 to provide services and housing to persons with chronic mental illness. The programs
21 must be designed to ensure psychiatric rehabilitation and to improve the rehabilitation
22 and recovery of persons with chronic mental illness. The programs must provide
23 medically necessary health and mental health services to persons with chronic mental
24 illness in the least restrictive setting that is consistent with the person's choice and
25 individual treatment plan and within the person's chosen community and provide housing
26 options to persons with chronic mental illness including a person's home or group
27 residential setting or another configuration according to the person's choice.