



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1243

S.P. 448

In Senate, April 7, 2015

**An Act To Make the Law Regarding Critical Incident Stress
Management Teams More Beneficial and Effective**

Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BURNS of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative PICKETT of Dixfield and
Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, DAVIS of Piscataquis, KATZ of Kennebec, SAVIELLO of
Franklin, WOODSOME of York, Representatives: HANINGTON of Lincoln, NADEAU of
Winslow, TUELL of East Machias.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §4201, sub-§§1 and 2**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 289, §1, are
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Critical incident.** "Critical incident" means a work-related incident that causes or
5 has the potential to cause ~~a law enforcement officer~~ an employee of or emergency
6 dispatcher for a criminal justice agency to experience emotional or physical stress.
7 "Critical incident" includes, but is not limited to, use-of-force encounters that may result
8 in the death of or serious injury to another person or an officer, fatal motor vehicle
9 accidents, child abuse investigations and death investigations.

10 **2. Critical incident stress management team.** "Critical incident stress
11 management team" means a team composed of members ~~of a state, county or municipal~~
12 designated by the chief law enforcement officer of a law enforcement agency, or the chief
13 law enforcement officer's designee, that is trained, in accordance with standards
14 established by rule by the Commissioner of Public Safety, to assist and provide support to
15 any person employed by the team's own agency or another ~~law enforcement~~ criminal
16 justice agency who has been involved in a critical incident that may affect, or has
17 affected, the person's work performance or general well-being. Rules adopted pursuant to
18 this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
19 2-A.

20 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §4201, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

21 **3. Criminal justice agency.** "Criminal justice agency" has the same meaning as in
22 Title 16, section 803, subsection 4.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill amends the definition of "critical incident" to include employees of and
25 emergency dispatchers for a criminal justice agency. The bill also allows the chief law
26 enforcement officer of a law enforcement agency or the chief law enforcement officer's
27 designee to designate critical incident stress management team members.