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Legislative Document

No. 966

H.P. 665

House of Representatives, March 17, 2015

An Act To Assist Patients in Need of Psychiatric Services

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

ROBERT B. HUNT

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Presented by Representative MALABY of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, VACHON of Scarborough,

Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, McCORMICK of Kennebec.

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 2 **CONCEPT DRAFT** 3 **SUMMARY** 4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. 5 This bill proposes to take steps to help provide acute psychiatric care in an inpatient setting by increasing the availability of inpatient beds. 6 7 The bill will seek to do the following: 8 1. Create and fund additional psychiatric beds for geriatric patients; 9 2. Review and make changes to the bed hold regulations for nursing homes and group homes to create incentives to take difficult mental health patients back after a 10 hospital stay; 11 12 3. Review and make changes to the bed hold regulations for nursing homes and group homes to create penalties for facilities that refuse to take difficult mental health 13 14 patients back after a hospital stay; 15 4. Provide psychiatric urgent care centers with accompanying medically supervised 16 crisis beds; 5. Create and fund additional psychiatric observation units; 17 6. Create an effective and professional mental health placement rapid response team 18 19 or ombudsman in the Department of Health and Human Services; and 20 Provide additional MaineCare reimbursement for long-stay mental health

emergency department patients and patients awaiting placement in psychiatric units.

21