130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document **No. 1325**

H.P. 977 House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

An Act To Provide Relief from Audit Requirements for Certain Health Care Facilities during a State of Emergency

(EMERGENCY)

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERRY of Bangor.

Printed on recycled paper

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the spread of the novel coronavirus disease referred to as COVID-19 has created a public health emergency; and

Whereas, the Governor has declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

Whereas, hospitals and health care facilities are facing increased financial strain due to the interruption of normal operation and additional cost of treating patients for and protecting patients and staff from the risks of COVID-19; and

Whereas, it is imperative that action be taken at the earliest possible moment to relieve hospitals and health care facilities of undue administrative and financial burdens; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2078 is enacted to read:

§2078. Relief from audit requirements; state of emergency

The authority may not require a participating health care facility to file any audited financial statements or reports with the authority during a state of emergency declared by the Governor in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742 and for 2 years thereafter.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority from requiring certain health care facilities to file audited financial statements or reports with the authority during a state of emergency declared by the Governor and for 2 years thereafter.