

# RELEASE: House Supports Re-Location of Secure Psychiatric Unit

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## New Hampshire House of Representatives Concord, New Hampshire House Majority Office

### **PRESS RELEASE**

February 27, 2019

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## **HOUSE SUPPORTS RE-LOCATION OF SECURE PSYCHIATRIC UNIT**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – Today, the House of Representatives voted to pass [HB 726](#), which establishes a Secure Forensic Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Council to assist in the development of plans for and the construction of a new secure multi-purpose forensic psychiatric hospital. **Representative Renny Cushing (D-Hampton)**, prime sponsor of the legislation, released the following statement:

“The passage of HB 726 is a pivotal moment for lawmakers and citizens of the state, representing that NH acknowledges mental illness for what it is, an illness and not a crime. Over 30 years ago, lawmakers had the opportunity to change the way we treat mental illness by removing it from Department of Corrections oversight to Department of Health and Human Services, and they failed to do what was right.”

“Today’s vote is now several decades overdue. A Secure Psychiatric Unit will improve the lives of those who seek help and their families, ensuring that patients suffering from mental illness receive secure and therapeutic care outside prison walls.”

# # #

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