

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1605

H. P. 1134

House of Representatives, January 6, 1964

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Tyndale of Kennebunkport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FOUR

RESOLVE, Appropriating Funds for Community Mental Health Services.

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

Whereas, the 1962-63 fiscal year budget for the Community Mental Health Services program was \$75,000, all of which was expended during said fiscal year and to which was added, and similarly expended, the unexpended balance of the appropriation for Community Mental Health Services for the previous fiscal year viz., \$7,311 and to which was added, and similarly expended, the amount of \$11,593.76 by the Department of Education to support a program now assumed by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the trainable mentally retarded, which became a part of the Community Mental Health Services program, all amounts totaling \$93,904.76; and

Whereas, the 101st Legislature appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the Community Mental Health Services program, the sum of \$75,000 and appropriated as the supplemental budget for the program the sum of \$10,000, for each year of the 1963-65 biennium, resulting in an overall reduction in the operating budget of \$8,904.76 for each year; and

Whereas, said appropriation of \$85,000 for the first year of the biennium is already encumbered and has necessitated broad reductions in current Community Mental Health Services programs, has necessitated the refusal of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections to assist new programs, and has necessitated the complete cessation of one Community Mental Health Services program; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary in order to revive, sustain and improve upon current Community Mental Health Services programs, and in order to enable the Department of Mental Health and Corrections to assist Maine communities to establish much needed Community Mental Health Services programs; 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

Community Mental Health Services program; appropriation. Resolved: That there is appropriated from the General Fund of the State the sum of \$35,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964 and \$35,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965, for the purpose of re-establishing a discontinued Community Mental Health Services program; for the purpose of assisting currently operating Community Mental Health Services in the retention of existing, and in the adoption of new, programs; and for the purpose of assisting Maine communities in the establishment of much needed, and yet nonexistent Community Mental Health Services programs.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The 101st Legislature provided \$75,000 for community mental health grant-in-aid for current services and an additional supplementary appropriation of \$10,000 for this program. During the fiscal year 1962-63 the current services encumbrance of grant-in-aid was \$82,311. Assistance from the Department of Education for trainable retarded children's centers during 1962-63 totaled \$11,593.76. The responsibility for aid to these latter programs was assumed by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, resulting in a current services cost during 1962-63 of \$93,904.76. Consequently, in 1963-64 encumbrances to programs had to be reduced below the previous level. Expansions and new program development are impossible to support because of financial restrictions, resulting in the frustration of community efforts to establish and provide local community mental health services.

To permit the operation of current programs at an improved level and to provide assistance to new programs, additional funds are critically needed.