

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 528

S. P. 219

In Senate, January 23, 1963

Referred to Committee on Towns and Counties. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Ferguson of Oxford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

RESOLVE, Appropriating Money for School Building for Hope Training School in Rumford.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the present building housing the Hope Training School in Rumford is a one-room structure which is overcrowded and inadequate; and

Whereas, it is imperative that action be taken at the earliest moment to relieve these conditions; and

Whereas, new building construction is vitally necessary and essential to develop a broader program of home-living instructions in a home-like environment; and

Whereas, the present building does not provide a sheltered workshop for the older pupils and such a workshop is a logical, practical result of the entire training program; and

Whereas, the training of retarded children is an eminently proper purpose for the expenditure of county funds; and

Whereas, the immediate need for such additional funds is urgent if the Oxford County Association for Retarded Children is to continue to serve effectively; 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

School building for Hope Training School; appropriation for. Resolved: That the County of Oxford shall expend the sum of \$25,000 for the calendar year 1963 to be paid to the treasurer of the Oxford County Association for Retarded Children on or before April 1, 1964. Such money shall be expended by the corporation for the construction of a home-type school building for the Hope Training School in Rumford.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Oxford County Association for Retarded Children organized November 1, 1957, affiliated with the State Association on May 10, 1958 and with the National Association on May 6, 1959. It was incorporated February 10, 1961, with 11 corporation officers and an advisory committee of 7.

The Hope Training School was established in Rumford in January, 1958, for the purpose of training or offering training to any trainable mentally retarded child in Oxford County not acceptable in public schools. The school conducts classes in a large room located on the 2nd floor of the Mechanics Institute building in Rumford. Instruction is provided to 19 pupils 3 hours daily, 4 days a week by a staff consisting of a director, one teacher certified by the Department of Education, 3 teacher aides, with special training in the field.

The curriculum follows the general course used at the Pineland Hospital and Training Center. Psychological evaluation tests are given yearly to each child by qualified psychologists to help both teachers and parents in planning for each child's future. Funds are obtained from an annual drive, direct gifts to the school, money making activities and state subsidies. The Oxford County Association for Retarded Children is asking for \$25,000 with which to build a home-type school for the following reasons.

The present facilities are not suitable. There is only one large room available in a public building which is used for many various activities. The room is on the 2nd floor, making it difficult for crippled children. There is no playground and the toilet facilities are public. The building that the association proposes to build will provide the necessary facilities for training mentally retarded children to develop their potentials. The cost of training a child at Pineland is \$2,200 per patient per year as compared to \$350 per year at the school. By investing \$25,000 in a new school building in Oxford County at Rumford it is plain that this expenditure will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars annually.