

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 569

H. P. 416

House of Representatives, January 24, 1963

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Osborn of Presque Isle.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

**RESOLVE, Authorizing the Establishment of a Residential and Day School for
the Mentally Retarded in Northern Maine.**

Whereas, resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adpournment of the Legislature unless passed as emergencies; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary in order to provide a training and educational program for mentally retarded children, who, due to lack of facilities in the area in which they live, are unable to avail themselves of public school education and for whom institutional care is undesirable, and moreover, unavailable due to overcrowding; and

Whereas, unused public buildings are available in Presque Isle, Maine which with remodeling can be adapted to serve as a residential and day-school facility for the training and education of such mentally retarded children; and

Whereas, remodeling should commence immediately, in order to assure the opening of such facility for classes at the earliest possible time; 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

Appropriation to establish and operate a training and educational facility for mentally retarded children in Northern Maine. Resolved: That there is appropriated from the General Fund of the State the sum of \$179,852 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964 and \$156,830 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965,

for the purpose of establishing and operating a residential and day-school, under the supervision of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the provision of education and training for the mentally retarded according to the following schedule.

	1963-64	1964-65
Personal Services (27)	\$109,852	\$111,830
All Other	40,000	40,000
Capital Expenditures	30,000	5,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	\$179,852	\$156,830

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In communities where there are few retarded children it is impossible to provide adequate educational opportunities to assist them in developing to a point of independence and ability. It is basically undesirable to admit most retarded children to an institution remote from their homes and families, and from the opportunity of integrating into their own community settings. Additionally, institutional facilities at Pineland Hospital and Training Center are limited.

In order to provide opportunity for retarded children as boarding or day students it is highly desirable to establish a 5-day a week educational and training program so that the children may obtain the benefits of special education and training and maintain their family ties. Additionally, it is desirable that their school program be as similar to that of normal children as possible, with the regular school vacations and the regular school week. This type of program requires fewer persons to operate it when compared to the 7-day week full custodial program and, consequently, per capita costs are substantially reduced. Facilities for special education in Northern Maine are limited, and population density is low, so that it is highly desirable that such a service for retarded children be instituted in that area. Unused public buildings are available for conversion to this use in Presque Isle at the Northern Maine Sanitarium.

The sum requested would provide a residential program for 30 children and a day program for 20 children, with reconstruction and equipment funds to modify existing structures for this use.