

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 224**

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S. P. 79

In Senate, January 19, 1965

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Maxwell of Franklin.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-FIVE

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### **AN ACT Appropriating Funds for the Establishment of a Speech and Hearing Referral and Training Center at the Farmington State Teachers College.**

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$22,870 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, and the sum of \$10,930 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967, to the Farmington State Teachers College for the establishment of a Speech and Hearing Referral and Training Center. Such costs provide for the payment of salaries, the purchase of basic equipment and the operation of the proposed program.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The State of Maine has a significant lack of trained speech and hearing therapists available for service to its public schools. There are now approximately 15 individuals within the State holding the basic preparation which is defined by the American Speech and Hearing Association as essential to employment in this field.

There is no opportunity presently operative in the State which offers a full-time sequential preparation program in this area. It is conservatively estimated that from 5 to 10% of the state's school population is in need of such services. In numbers this would approximate 10,000 to 15,000 school children who should be receiving speech training. The proposed Act would provide for the prepa-

ration of a selected number of teachers as well as establish the potential for referral service to the geographical area surrounding the college to render professional diagnosis, programmed remedial assistance and general consultation for cases beyond the ability of the local school personnel to aid effectively.

Since the college already offers an established program for the preparation of teachers of the mentally retarded, it would appear that the location of such a teacher training and referral service center is logical.