

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1714

S. P. 676

In Senate, January 17, 1966

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Stern of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SIX

AN ACT Appropriating Funds for Increased Staff at the Bangor State Hospital.

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

Whereas, ward employees at the Bangor State Hospital currently work 48 hours during a work week, work 7 consecutive days before having a day off and work 7 weeks before having 2 consecutive days off; and

Whereas, such extensive work schedule with limited days off has had a demoralizing affect upon ward employees at the Bangor State Hospital causing employee unrest; and

Whereas, ward employee turnover is extremely high; and

Whereas, of 208 ward employees polled, 179 indicated that they want a 44 hour work week; and

Whereas, an increase in the number of ward employees at the Bangor State Hospital, and the resultant change over to a 44 hour work week is vitally necessary to assist in the reduction of employee turnover and to assure the continuing provision of adequate and necessary patient service; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections the sum of \$5,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966 and the sum of \$20,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967. The breakdown shall be as follows:

MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF

Bangor State Hospital	1965-66	1966-67
Personal Services (Provides 26 Psychiatric Aides)	(26) \$5,000	(26) \$20,000

The figures in parentheses shown before each dollar amount provides for personal services in this Act, or as adjusted by other legislative action, shall represent the total number of authorized permanent positions in such account, and the maximum number of persons employable on a permanent basis at any one time. The appropriations made for personal services are made with the proviso that the total number of permanent positions in any account shall not be increased during either year of the biennium over the total numbers shown in parentheses and used by the Legislature in computing the total dollars to be made available for personal services. Savings accruing within appropriations made, for permanent positions, may be used for other personal services when approved by the department head, Budget Officer and the Governor and Council. To provide some degree of flexibility, each department, institution or agency may apply to the Personnel Board for an exchange between job classifications, and such action may be approved if by so doing the total amount determined to be available for personal services, in such account, for any one year is not exceeded, and also providing that certification is made, in writing, that such action will not result in an increased request for personal service moneys from the Legislature.

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