

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1761

H. P. 1266

House of Representatives, January 17, 1966

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Doyle of Caribou and Mr. Rackliff of Easton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-SIX

**RESOLVE, Appropriating Funds for Constructing a Day School for the  
Mentally Retarded in Northern Maine.**

**Appropriation. Resolved:** There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Aroostook Association for Retarded Children, a nonprofit corporation, the sum of \$73,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, for construction of a day school, utilizing this money with available matching federal funds. This appropriation shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1968.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In communities where there are few retarded children it is impossible to provide adequate educational and training opportunities to assist them in achieving their maximum potential toward 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 to obtain the benefits of special education and training, it is desirable that their school program be similar to that of normal children. Facilities for special education in northern Maine are limited. The school is now located in the old Northern Maine Sanatorium and the cost to the State of Maine for the old sanatorium is approximately \$22,000 per year. If the school is moved the old sanatorium can be closed down, resulting in savings to the State of the said \$22,000 per year.

The sum requested, together with \$101,000 in available federal funds will provide facilities for day school for 70 children, fully equipped for use. The school program in this building will be run by the local association for retarded children which now maintains an active training school program.