

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 902

H. P. 649

House of Representatives, February 15, 1967

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Authorizing Positions for Casework Services to the Blind.

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

Positions for casework services to the blind. In order to provide social casework services, within the Division of Eye Care and Special Services, to blind children and adults on a state-wide basis, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$21,856 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968 and the sum of \$22,670 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1967-68	1968-69
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(4) \$19,656	(4) \$20,670
All Other	2,200	2,000
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	\$21,856	\$22,670

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A recent study by the American Foundation for the Blind of the services to the visually handicapped and blind in Maine points out that one of the major weaknesses and most pressing needs of our services in Maine is the lack of a casework unit to serve this group of some 22,000 blind people in Maine. Without a casework unit the services to the blind in Maine would not meet the minimum acceptable standards as set forth by the National Commission on Accreditation of Agency serving the blind.

This request would permit the department to place one social worker in each of the 3 area offices in the State and a supervisor of the casework unit.