

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 982

H. P. 687

House of Representatives, February 21, 1967

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Couture of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Expand Services for Eye Care and Special Services Division, Department of Health and Welfare.

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

Appropriation. In order to expand professional refractive services, optometric and ophthalmological, to children and adults, there is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare, Eye Care and Special Services Division, from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968 and the sum of \$10,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

| HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF | 1967-68 | 1968-69 |
|--|----------|----------|
| Eye Care and Special Services Division | | |
| All Other | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Many children need glasses to see well enough to do their homework, many adults depend on glasses to see well enough to work or care for their families, and many elderly people must have glasses in order to see well enough to read and care for themselves. Presently, unless glasses are a part of medical treatment, they are available to only a limited number of children. This appropriation will enable the department to provide glasses to needy people of all ages who need them in order to see adequately enough to do those things essential to their well-being.

A recent study by the American Foundation for the Blind in cooperation with The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness points out this gap in essential Eye Care Services and stresses the vital need for expanding this service.