# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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#### ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

### Legislative Document

No. 602

H. P. 465 House of Representatives, February 5, 1969 Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and 1,000 ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Moreshead of Augusta.

#### STATE OF MAINE

## IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE

AN ACT Revising the Laws Relating to Support at State Institutions.

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

R. S., T. 34, § 2511, amended. Section 2511 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding at the end, a new sentence, as follows:

On and after July 1, 1969, the department shall not charge any parent for the support of a child beyond the child's 21st birthday.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The parents of normal children are usually relieved of the financial burden of parenthood when children reach an average age of 21 or become self-supporting, but the parent of subnormal children requiring life time care in Maine's institutions contribute support to such institutions from the date of admission until death of the parent or death of the adult child terminates the legal liability.

The charges for such care, although based on a determination of ability to pay, can result in damaging reductions in the standard of living, particularly of those families of modest income or parents reaching retirement age.

The loss of revenue caused by correction of this inequity is considered to be an inconsequential amount which must be further reduced by deducting the cost to the State of determining and collecting these support fees.