

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1142

H. P. 883

House of Representatives, March 4, 1969

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and 1,000 ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Watson of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-NINE

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

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

Department of Health and Welfare; fund for. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Eye Care and Special Services Division, Department of Health and Welfare, the sum of \$47,035. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1969-70	1970-71
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Eye Care and Special Services Division		
Personal Services	(4) \$18,660	(4) \$24,875
All Other	1,500	2,000
	<hr/> \$20,160	<hr/> \$26,875

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Division of Eye Care & Special Services

This Division is responsible for Services to the Visually Handicapped. In addition it conducts other Rehabilitation and Health Programs. Programs include **Education of blind child, Vocational Rehabilitation, Prevention of Blindness, Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Services to Armed Forces Rejectees, Homemaker Service,** and other Education, Rehabilitation and Training Services.

The following are our legislative requests :

1. Services to the Visually Handicapped

Our services to the visually handicapped have recently undergone re-evaluation by the American Foundation for the Blind who did a comprehensive evaluation of our services to the visually handicapped in 1965. This re-evaluation was requested as an assistance in legislative planning and also as a preliminary step in applying for certification from the Commission on Standards and Accreditation for Agency Serving the Blind.

The findings of the re-evaluation team concurs with our own evaluation that the following additional staff is essential for minimum acceptable level of services :

a. Social Casework Unit: Establishment of a casework unit consisting of a supervisor and a minimum of three social workers who would act as casework specialists in each of our three regional offices. These case-workers would act as liaison and consultants to other public and private caseworker agencies in their area around special needs of the visually handicapped. They would do intake and provide limited direct services especially with parents of pre-school blind children. Funding would be partially federal. Cost of \$20,000 State dollars matchable by \$12,000 Federal dollars.

b. Adult Education Specialists: At the present time we have only one adult education specialist for the entire state. We need at least one more enabling the two to provide more needed services to two major groups,

(1) visually handicapped homemakers responsible for caring for their families and engaging in activities of daily living in their own homes, and

(2) the elderly visually handicapped in boarding homes, nursing homes and hospitals who could benefit from activities of self-care and daily living. Cost \$4,000 State dollars matchable by \$3,300 Federal dollars.

c. Mobility Specialist: We now have one mobility specialist for the whole state. We need another in order that one can devote his time to mobility needs of adults and the other to mobility needs of children. Cost \$1,596 State dollars matchable by \$6,386 Federal dollars.