

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 152**

H. P. 108

House of Representatives, January 13, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Brown of York.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Relating to Grants for Community Mental Health Services.**

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

R. S., T. 34, § 2055, amended. The first sentence of section 2055 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 288 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended to read as follows:

**§ 2055. Amount**

Such grant of money shall not exceed in any single year  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the operating expenses incurred by the municipality, governmental unit or nonprofit corporation receiving the grant after deducting from said expense the fees, if any, received for the services rendered ~~except that no more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the operating expenses shall be paid from the General Fund appropriation.~~

STATEMENT OF FACT

The 104th Legislative session expanded the level of possible support under the Community Mental Health Grant-in-Aid program to three-quarters of operating expenses less fees. However, a qualifying phrase was added indicating that additional moneys above the one-half operating expenses could not come from the General Fund appropriation.

Experience has indicated that certain services such as those in economically deprived areas, and services newly formed and organized but not yet generally accepted by the community have difficulty in raising the 50% level of operational costs. These specific services need differentially higher funding

at least for a beginning period of time and occasionally pending receipt of federal grants which are somewhat irregular in their distribution. The flexibility provided by this increased allowance of grant-in-aid would provide the necessary flexibility for the implementation of this most worthwhile program.

Financial limits are established by the total General Fund appropriation which is always used in its entirety because of the increasing and pressing demands for additional community mental health services. This measure would in no way affect the expenditures from the General Fund appropriation given by the Legislature for this program.