

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 336

H. P. 254

House of Representatives, January 26, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Provide Services for
Handicapped Persons in Rehabilitation Centers.**

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

Sec. 1. Establish a fund for purchase of evaluation and training services at rehabilitation centers. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Health and Welfare, is authorized to establish a fund specifically for use in purchasing the evaluative and rehabilitation training services available at rehabilitation facilities, as defined in the Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3054, to assist severely handicapped persons to prepare for and to obtain suitable employment.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$70,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. All funds appropriated under this Act shall be available to the extent they are matched by federal funds. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$30,000	\$40,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The development of facilities in the State (6 in all) has greatly improved the possibilities for successful rehabilitation of many Maine citizens severely handicapped by reason of their physical, mental or emotional problems.

Appropriation of the fund proposed in this Bill would accomplish 2 things:

1. The establishment of a fund for the specific purpose of purchasing facilities' services for the handicapped. This would enable us, with supplementation from our regular appropriation, to assure facilities of a certain minimum amount available for client services by their agency during the year.

2. Increase the amount of state money for which a 4 to 1 return from the Federal Government can be anticipated.