

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 431

H. P. 322

House of Representatives, January 28, 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 Relating to Continuation of Accreditation of the Augusta State
Hospital.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, maintenance of hospital standards permitting retention of the accreditation of the Augusta State Hospital is important and necessary in assuring the provision of adequate care and treatment of patients at the Augusta State Hospital; and

Whereas, funds appropriated by the Legislature for the 1970-71 fiscal year are insufficient to permit efforts toward retention of the accreditation standards; and

Whereas, in an attempt to permit efforts to be undertaken toward retention of accreditation standards the Governor and Executive Council by Council Order #1414, dated June 24, 1970, authorized the utilization of appropriated funds allocated for the fourth quarter of the 1970-71 fiscal year to be expended within the first and second quarters of such fiscal year; and

Whereas, such expenditures have given rise to the need for additional appropriations for hospital operation and the additional appropriation of funds is required in order to permit further effort toward retention of accreditation standards; and

Whereas, it is vitally necessary that funds be appropriated for the continuing operation of the Augusta State Hospital and to permit further efforts to be undertaken toward retention of accreditation standards, all in the interest of the provision of adequate care and treatment of the mentally ill; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Permanent positions. The figure in parentheses shown just before the dollar amount provided for Personal Services in this Act, or as adjusted by other legislative action, shall represent the total number of authorized permanent positions in such account, and the maximum number of persons employable on a permanent basis at any one time. The appropriation made for Personal Services is made with the provision that the total number of permanent positions in the account shall not be increased during the 1970-71 fiscal year over the total number shown in parentheses and used by the Legislature in computing the total dollars to be made available for Personal Services. Savings accruing within the appropriation made, for permanent positions, may be used for other personal services when recommended by the department head and the Budget Officer, and approved by the Governor and Council. To provide some degree of flexibility the department or institution may apply to the Personnel Board for an exchange between job classifications, and such action may be approved if by so doing the total amount determined to be available for Personal Services, in such account for the fiscal year is not exceeded, and also providing that certification is made, in writing that such action will not result in an increased request for Personal Service moneys from the Legislature.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971 the sum of \$481,027 to be allocated to the Augusta State Hospital for hospital operation for the 1970-71 fiscal year and for the purpose of permitting efforts toward retention of accreditation standards. The breakdown of expenditure shall be as follows:

	1970-71
MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF	
Augusta State Hospital	
Personal Services	\$296,763
(Provides: 4 Physicians IV, 1 Business Manager I, 6 Clerk Typists II, 1 Account Clerk I, 1 Psychiatric Social Worker II, 2 Nurses IV, 2 Nurses III, 10 Li- censed Practical Nurses, 8 Psychiatric Aides II, 20 Psychiatric Aides I)	
All other	99,300
Capital Expenditures	84,964
TOTAL	\$481,027

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purposes of this Act are reflected in the Emergency Preamble.