

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 800**

S. P. 272

In Senate, February 16, 1971

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Kellam of Cumberland.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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### AN ACT Providing Funds for Shalom House, Inc., a Halfway House, in Portland.

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to Shalom House, Inc., a halfway house, the sum of \$35,000 to aid in the operation of Shalom House, Inc., which offers patients returning from mental institutions an opportunity to reintegrate gradually into society.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

Representatives of the major faiths and denominations of the Woodfords-deering area, Portland, Maine, aware of their responsibility for helping persons in mental distress, offer to the State of Maine the following design for a halfway house.

Shalom House is to be a facility for aftercare during the period of transition from institutionalization in a mental hospital to a complete adjustment and rehabilitation to life in the community. Such a facility, the first of its kind in the State of Maine, would offer patients returning from mental institutions an opportunity to reintegrate gradually into society. Shalom House is also designed for those who suffer unusual mental stress and need, not hospitalization, but a home away from home to gather a new perspective on themselves.

A house on 18 Lincoln Street, Portland, Maine, is the proposed site for the project. It will hold 15 beds, a 6-months limit is given to each guest. House

parents are the basic therapists with counseling support from the Maine Medical Mental Health Center. Guests assume financial responsibility as they are able. Efforts will be made to seek gainful employment for those guests able to work.

A sum of \$35,000 is sought from the State of Maine. This would be a non-recurring grant that would act as seed-money for the first year of the halfway house operation. The \$35,000 would be used for renovation and refurbishing of the house on Lincoln Street and act as a solid base for salaries and regular operational expenses.

Following the first year of operation, the financial support of the project will be taken up by churches and other local community resources.