

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 993

H. P. 731

House of Representatives, February 19, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Payson of Falmouth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Establish Kidney Disease
Treatment Services.**

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

Sec. 1. Establish kidney disease treatment services. The Department of Health and Welfare is authorized to assist the Maine Medical Center to develop a center for providing end stage kidney disease treatment services, and, where feasible, to provide similar or related services to patients in their homes or in other institutions. For this purpose, the Department of Health and Welfare may make contracts or grants to assist in preparing detailed plans for the development of such services. The Department of Health and Welfare may make grants to help recruit, train or otherwise assure the necessary technical or professional staff. The department may make grants for the purchase of services, equipment or supplies, for minor physical plant remodelling or to assure the operation of the center by operational subsidy. Charges made to patients by, or in behalf of, the Maine Medical Center shall reflect the financial assistance made available through this Act. The department shall have authority to require that its approval of the plans for the development and operation of the center shall be a condition for providing assistance through this Act.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$250,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. All funds appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended for the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$150,000	\$100,000
STATEMENT OF FACT		

The last Legislature made \$250,000 available as grant money to the Maine Medical Center to start a kidney dialysis service, and underwrite part of the costs of such service to assist patients by the reduction in charges resulting from such subsidy.

About \$100,000 were spent for dialysis machines and related equipment.

About \$100,000 were spent for minor space modifications, recruitment, training and other start-up costs. Services began last year, and about \$50,000 was thus available to subsidize service charges. Cost per dialysis is about \$225. Charges are \$175. For this coming year it is expected that the center will be continuously serving about 30 patients, and will provide about 1,500 treatments per year.

The funds requested in this Act will provide an estimated \$50 per treatment subsidy for the years 1971-72, 1972-73, at a cost of about \$150,000.

Part of the requested appropriation is planned to be used to acquire equipment and facilities to initiate home dialysis which in many instances can be much more convenient for patients, and much less expensive than services in the hospital. It is projected that equipping and establishing this service will cost about \$75,000.

The balance of the requested appropriation is expected to be used to begin the process of making the treatment center complete to the point of being able to do kidney transplants, which in most cases must be the ultimate goal in the dialysis treatment of the individual patient.