

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 626

H. P. 482 House of Representatives, February 1, 1973  
Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for  
concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Provide Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
to Handicapped Persons.**

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

**Department of Health and Welfare; appropriation.** There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare from the General Fund the sum of \$184,000 to provide more services to individuals such as the severely disabled, the mentally retarded and the drug abuser to encourage them to help themselves in attaining and maintaining employment. Service shall include counseling, basic training for development of employment skills, physical restoration and provision of medical devices and equipment to enhance the disabled individual's functioning on the job. All funds appropriated under this Act shall be available to the extent they are matched by federal funds. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Vocational Rehabilitation		
Personal Services	(4) \$ 8,800	(4) \$ 9,240
All Other	82,760	82,760
Capital Expenditures	440	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$92,000	\$92,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide rehabilitation services to an additional 2,500 handicapped individuals. The goal is to help these people become

productive, worthwhile people, living independently at no burden to the State. Many will become taxpaying citizens contributing to the growth of Maine. This investment offering preventative measures now, will help avoid potential future costs of institutionalization and help to reduce future demands for greater State appropriations to institutions with relatively high unit costs.

This request is over and above those included in the Part I and II budgets and is not an increase in the array of services offered presently. The requests included in the proposed biennial budget would only permit helping a small percent of the unserved handicapped people.

The national Rehabilitation Act offers federal matching funds at a 4-1 ratio. Thus, 80% of the total program expense will be paid in federal tax dollars, returning to Maine \$736,000.