

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 881

H. P. 674

House of Representatives, February 14, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Ault of Wayne.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Continue Service to Blind and Visually Handicapped Children.

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, Bureau of Rehabilitation, Eye Care Services, the sum of \$120,000, in addition to any and all other appropriations, to continue services to blind and visually handicapped children to help assure they achieve and maintain a level of daily functioning and school performance commensurate with their age and ability. Services shall include diagnostic, medical, counseling, tutored efforts and provision of equipment to help children overcome barriers to full participation in the educational system. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Rehabilitation		
Eye Care Services		
All Other	\$60,000	\$60,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Services to blind children currently reach only 44% of the 700 known blind and visually handicapped children needing medical and rehabilitative services.

The purpose of this bill is to provide additional resources for counselors and itinerant teachers to go into homes and school systems to help blind children enter the mainstream of community life. By developing skills they will be able to lead normal lives and participate in the regular school systems within Maine, rather than requiring long-term service in special education classes and expensive out-of-state schools for the blind.