

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1266

H. P. 956

House of Representatives, March 5, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Mulkern of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Providing Funds for Psychiatric Aides at Pineland Hospital and Training Center.

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

Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, Pineland Hospital and Training Center the sum of \$1,051,680 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF		
Pineland Hospital and Training Center		
Personal Services	(100) \$503,360	(100) \$528,320
All Other	10,000	10,000
Total	\$513,360	\$538,320

These are all psychiatric aide I positions.

STATEMENT OF FACT

In order to maintain the health and welfare of the patients at Pineland Hospital and Training Center and to assure appropriate working conditions

for the direct care employees, there is a need for an increase in the number of individuals involved in direct care. At the present time there are 227 psychiatric aides employed at Pineland to care for the approximately 700 patients. Considering 24-hour coverage, days off, vacation days, sick days, etc., the present over-all ratio per shift would be approximately one psychiatric aide per 15 retarded individuals. Under these conditions it is difficult, if not impossible, to maintain appropriate care standards and in any type of disaster, such as a fire, it would be impossible to remove the patients from their buildings.

In meeting the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals minimal standards, Pineland would require approximately 700 direct care personnel for the approximate 700 patients. With the requested 100 psychiatric aides, considering 24-hour coverage, days off, etc., the psychiatric aide coverage would be approximately one per 10 patients, rather than the present one to 15 ratio. This is well below the recommended minimal standards of the Joint Commission of Hospital Accreditation.