

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1286

S. P. 426

In Senate, March 8, 1973

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Conley of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

RESOLVE, Providing Funds for Abilities and Goodwill, Inc.

Abilities and Goodwill, Inc.; appropriation. Resolved: That there is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to Abilities and Goodwill, Inc., the sum of \$15,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974 and the sum of \$15,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975 to be used to help support an already established sheltered workshop program serving 35 mentally retarded and multiply disabled adults who are diagnosed as unemployable in the competitive labor market.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Abilities and Goodwill, Inc., a vocational rehabilitation center for handicapped adults, established a sheltered workshop for 7 severely disabled adults in 1969.

In January, 1973, 35 mentally retarded and multiply disabled adults were referred, diagnosed as unemployable in the competitive labor market and placed in the workshop for work activities.

Although the sheltered workshop is practically self-supporting through the work efforts of the clients, the program has to be subsidized from other resources within the organization. These resources have been depleted and the program is in jeopardy of being phased out.

The sheltered workshop provides work activities paying piece rate wages to each trainee. Personal and social adjustment training, recreation and

community involvement and emergency housing, when needed by the parents, are the rehabilitation activities used in the program.

The State Bureau of Rehabilitation assists the organization by providing fees for diagnostic evaluation, but by its regulations cannot provide training or subsidy to severely disabled adults diagnosed as unemployable in the competitive labor market.

This program is a very necessary community service because it answers the critical social questions:

- (a) What can parents do with their severely disabled sons and daughters in the community after school days end, especially during the week days?
- (b) The mentally retarded have a right to join society in the world of work. Who will provide the structure for this work?
- (c) Where will Pineland patients, who are released to the community, go for day work activities?
- (d) What type of program can make a taxpayer out of a severely handicapped tax user?
- (e) What is less costly: institutionalization or community day care programs?

Abilities and Goodwill, Inc., is seeking \$15,000 annual subsidy to maintain the program at its present rate of growth and service.