

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1496

S. P. 468

In Senate, March 19, 1973

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Morrell of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Appropriating Funds for Medical Care Development, Incorporated.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts passed by the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies ; and

Whereas, the said 90-day period will not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year ; and

Whereas, Medical Care Development, Incorporated is presently involved in a state-wide program of improving the health care delivery system in Maine ; and

Whereas, alternative funding which would enable Medical Care Development, Incorporated to discharge its responsibilities at the beginning of the next fiscal year is not available ; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety ; now, therefore,

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

Appropriation. There is appropriated to Medical Care Development, Incorporated, from the General Fund the sum of \$265,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974 and the sum of \$291,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

It is proposed that Medical Care Development, Incorporated, a Maine non-profit corporation which was organized to become the recipient of federal funds for Maine's Regional Medical Program, shall continue to act to improve the health care delivery system through the development of new kinds of health services, new health manpower and updating the level of medical knowledge for health professionals and the general public.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Maine's Regional Medical Program, a major activity of Medical Care Development, Incorporated, is one of the many federally funded programs being eliminated in the Administration's proposed budget for fiscal year 1974. Maine's RMP has been one of the most effective mechanisms for improving the delivery of health services in Maine, having developed projects which have affected directly or indirectly almost every citizen of the State. Since its beginning almost 6 years ago, Maine's RMP has invested about \$6.5-million in Maine's health care system.

The fact that the federal funding will end by June 30, 1973, does not mean that our health care delivery problems have been solved. In fact, these programs are needed more urgently than ever when the advent of some kind of national health insurance is considered.

It is proposed to continue Medical Care Development, Incorporated, (MCDI) a nonprofit corporation which was organized to become the recipient of the federal RMP funds. Using the same guidelines and administrative procedures, MCDI would develop new programming to meet the most urgent health care problems confronting the State. All programming and administrative decisions would continue to be made by the 33 member Regional Advisory Group and the 19 member board of directors. These 2 groups represent all health care, educational, governmental and consumer interests in the State.