

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1819

H. P. 1363

House of Representatives, April 3, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Carter of Winslow.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Expand Human Resources by Rehabilitating Recipients of State Aid.

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

Department of Health and Welfare; appropriation. There is appropriated the sum of \$80,000 from the General Fund to provide rehabilitation services to a larger number of Aid to the Blind, Disabled and Aged as well as Aid to Families with Dependent Children; for the purpose of helping people get off welfare. 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		
Bureau of Rehabilitation		
Personal Services	(5) \$ 8,880	(5) \$ 9,330
All Other	30,650	30,650
Capital Expenditures	490	—
	<hr/> \$40,020	<hr/> \$39,980

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act is to provide rehabilitation services to an additional 800 recipients of public assistance in order to reduce the number of people

receiving welfare. Funds for this request are not included in the Part II budget.

Among the 30,000 cases now receiving state aid, many thousands are one-parent families with preschool children, or aged families who would find it most difficult to work. Yet, many of the cases include single parent families on ADC, or disabled and blind people who do desire to work. A small amount of services such as training, restoration of physical handicaps, and on-the-job training will enable many individuals to get off welfare. By helping recipients help themselves, the Legislature would improve our state's human resources.

The VR/PA Program, vocational rehabilitation of public assistance recipients, is a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Rehabilitation with the strong support of the Bureau of Social Welfare. This effort has, and holds the potential for developing more, constructive joint operations between the Bureaus. The mutual goal is to more effectively utilize facilities, manpower and joint planning to reduce duplication of service.

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 \$320,000.