

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

(New Title)

New draft of: S. P. 109, L. D. 254

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1948

S. P. 625

In Senate, May 18, 1973

Reported by Senator Morrell of Cumberland from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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**AN ACT to Provide Moneys for Planning Residential  
Accommodations for the Retarded in Maine.**

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

Whereas, time must be sufficient to evaluate needs and develop a plan prior to the next special session; and

Whereas, the need for residential accommodations for the retarded is acute and a continued hardship upon the individual and family; 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 from the General Fund, to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, Bureau of Mental Retardation, the sum of \$26,752 to develop a needs assessment and plan for residential accommodations and supportive services for the retarded in Maine. The breakdown shall be as follows:

1973-74

MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS,  
DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Mental Retardation  
All Other

\$26,752

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The need for living accommodations, other than the natural home, for the severely and profoundly retarded in Maine, has been amply demonstrated. Pineland continues to be overcrowded and some of the existing buildings, although in disrepair, are not amendable to renovations or renovations would not result in a suitable living environment. When the Levinson Development Center was opened there were 80 more applicants than beds. Pineland and the Levinson Center continue to have waiting lists.

The needs of the severely and profoundly retarded and their families are diverse. The alternate living arrangement needs range from long term to respite care. Their program needs range from intensive nursing care to intensive aid to daily living skills training. Thus, these needs may be better met through a variety of living accommodations, e. g., foster homes, group homes and pediatric nursing homes, and training programs. Further, through the use of appropriate services, available moneys are more effectively utilized and more individuals may be appropriately served.