

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2165

S. P. 755

In Senate, January 2, 1974

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Brennan of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT to Appropriate Funds for Dental Care Programs in Rural Sections of Cumberland and York Counties.

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

Department of Health and Welfare; appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$20,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, to supplement federal and municipal funds to be used for the maintenance of dental care programs to the rural areas of Cumberland and York Counties. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1974-75
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF	
All Other	\$20,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this appropriation is to provide the state's share of funds necessary toward the maintenance of dental care delivery capability of existing private, nonprofit clinics into the rural areas of Cumberland and York Counties. As of July 1973, the region has lost its capability of delivering dental care services to low income persons in rural York and Cumberland Counties as a result of changing federal regulations and funding patterns.

This turn of events, added to an already critical shortage of dental facilities and personnel existing in these areas, has exacerbated the problem to emergency proportions. In rural York, there are 3 dentists serving 10 towns with a combined population of approximately 12,000 persons, for a ratio of one to 4,000. In rural Cumberland, there are 4 private dentists serving 13 towns, with a combined population of nearly 16,000 persons, for a ratio of one to 4,000. A recent Health and Welfare needs assessment (June 1973) confirms that the need for dental care was the number one priority among families in York and Cumberland Counties.