

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 199

H. P. 165

House of Representatives, January 15, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hewes of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Those Persons
who are Deaf or who Have Impaired Hearing.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA, § 3054, sub-§ 8, ¶ D, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 457, § 1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA, § 3054, sub-§ 8, ¶ D-1, is enacted to read:

D-1. Specific services necessary to meet the unique needs of those persons who are deaf or who have impaired hearing. These services shall include the aid of qualified personnel who can relate to and communicate on an effective and meaningful basis with persons who are deaf or have impaired hearing.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There shall be appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health & Welfare, Bureau of Rehabilitation, the sum of \$102,225 to carry out the provisions of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
HEALTH & WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Rehabilitation		
All Other	\$25,185	\$77,040

Appropriated funds will be matched on a
4 to 1 basis with available federal moneys.

STATEMENT OF FACT

There are estimated to be 58,000 Maine citizens who are either deaf or have hearing impairments. Of this number, 6,765 are deaf, 2,000 of whom became deaf before the age of 19.

The current ability to provide vocational rehabilitation services to significant numbers of this disabled group is extremely limited due to the present inability to communicate and provide the necessary services to meet the unique needs presented by the deaf.

Such services are not now available. The ultimate goal of such a vocational rehabilitation program will be to provide vocational rehabilitation services which will include necessary personal, social and emotional adjustment and which together will equip them for suitable employment.