

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 341

H. P. 289 House of Representatives, January 23, 1975
Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up
for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. LaPointe of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Supporting Additional Positions for Department
of Health and Welfare.

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 Health and Welfare, Bureau of Social Welfare, the sum of \$850,814 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Social Welfare		
Personal Services	(41) \$384,652	\$402,498
All Other	22,610	24,575
Capital Expenditures	16,479	—
Total	\$423,741	\$427,073

Provides for funding of additional positions to the Bureau of Social Welfare for the purpose of decreasing error rate, handling increased application rate in Aid to Families with Dependent Children program and Medicaid program and for bureau administrative support functions.

STATEMENT OF FACT

By regulation, the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare can reduce the federal matching funds available for the Aid to Families with

Dependent Children program if the State's error rate exceeds the established federal percentage levels for errors in ineligible grants, and for cases where overpayments occur. Maine's error rate exceeds the established federal levels and is increasing due to cutbacks in staff ordered in the last special session. More personal contact, particularly with applicants, is necessary to reduce client and agency error. When the medically needy and catastrophic illness program was funded at last special legislative session, an inadequate number of staff to administer the program was authorized; 4 more state positions are required to correct this inadequacy. The need for 2 additional administrative support lines is occasioned by the design and implementation plan for a program budgeting system.