

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 777

H. P. 623

House of Representatives, February 26, 1975

Speaker laid before the House and on motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Boudreau of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide Funds for the Continuation of Children's
Mental Health Services within the State of Maine.

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 the sum of \$1,312,000 in order to assure the continuation of existing services which provide for the residential care of the emotionally disturbed children of the State and to provide for program development for these children in the several communities of the State. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Mental Health		
All Other	\$656,000	\$656,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Department of Mental Health and Corrections, Bureau of Mental Health, has no appropriated funds to support the treatment of or provide services for emotionally disturbed or mentally ill children under the age of 18 years.

In June, 1973, the Bureau of Mental Health began the phaseout of the Children's Psychiatric Hospital at Pineland Center. The Children's Psychiatric Hospital had for the past 10 years served the State as the only public facility for the psychiatric care of children. The facility was phased out due to inadequate staffing, funding, psychiatric care and physical facilities. The financial support of the Children's Psychiatric Hospital was thus transferred to the Pineland Center.

The Bureau of Mental Health utilized and is still utilizing the Mental Health Program Improvement Fund to provide alternative care for these and additional children. This is an unstable source of funds which exists only from year to year. Such unstable funding is not appropriate to provide for the continuity of care of children in need.

The Department of Mental Health and Corrections, Bureau of Mental Health, is presently, in collaboration with the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and Health and Welfare, partially supporting some 80 children in psychiatric residential placement facilities. A significant number of additional children are receiving community based services in Community Mental Health Centers, many programs which were made possible through grants from the Bureau of Mental Health.