

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 992

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S. P. 280

In Senate, March 11, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Graham of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT Providing Funds for Bancroft School Facility for Seriously  
Disturbed Children at Owls Head.**

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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 to provide funds for the Bancroft School Facility for Seriously Disturbed Children at Owls Head, the sum of \$250,000 for the current biennium. All funds appropriated under this Act shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1977.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Since the closing of the Children's Psychiatric Hospital, the State of Maine has faced the dilemma of how to meet the educational and treatment needs of the most seriously emotionally disturbed children. With the assistance of the 106th Legislature, the Bureau of Mental Health and Corrections and the Department of Educational and Cultural Services most of the children phased out of the hospital have been placed. The most seriously disturbed children were placed at the Bancroft School, Haddonfield, New Jersey.

In January, 1975, 12 of the children in the New Jersey School returned to Maine and are now resident at the Bancroft School Facility at Owls Head. The need for this kind of treatment is so urgent in Maine that the 24 openings at Owls Head were filled before the school opened in January.

The Bancroft School proposes to replicate the Owls Head treatment center in other regions of Maine and develop a comprehensive plan for providing services for all of Maine's children by filling the void which exists in children's mental health care.

The special session of the 106th Legislature appropriated \$100,000 under chapter 221 of the private and special laws of 1973.