

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2035

H. P. 1864 House of Representatives, January 21, 1976
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-SIX

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

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

Sec. 1. Children's services. In order to assure the continuation of exist-
ing services which provide for the residential care of the emotionally dis-
turbed children of the State of Maine and to provide for program develop-
ment for these children in the several communities of the State the sum of
\$998,223 is appropriated out of moneys in the General Fund not otherwise
appropriated or provided by law.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated to the Bureau of Mental
Health, Department of Mental Health and Corrections from the General Fund
the sum of \$998,223 to carry out the provisions of this Act. The breakdown
shall be as follows:

1976-77

MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Mental Health
All Other

\$998,223

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 serv-

ices for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children under the age of 18 years.

In June, 1973, the Bureau of Mental Health began the phase out of the Children's Psychiatric Hospital (CPH) and Pineland Hospital and Training 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 Hospital and Training Center.

The Bureau of Mental Health utilized and is still utilizing the Mental Health Improvement Fund (MHIF) to provide alternative care for these and additional children. The Mental Health Improvement Fund 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, with the collaboration of the Departments of Educational and Cultural Services and Human Services, 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.