

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 288

H. P. 224

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

On motion of Ms. Goodwin of Bath, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and 2,000 copies ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Ms. Goodwin of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Amend the Priority Social Services Program to Serve Elderly Health Needs.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 6108, 1st ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is further amended to read:

The Bureau of Maine's Elderly, Department of Human Services or its successors, is designated as the organizational unit of State Government with sole responsibility for administrating, with the advice of the Maine Committee on Aging, and subject to the direction of the commissioner, so much of the Priority Social Services Program as relates directly to older people, such as, but not limited to, these types of social services: Meals for older people, transportation for older people and ~~coordinated elderly programs health services for the elderly.~~

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA § 6110, 1st ¶, as repealed and replaced by P & SL 1975, c. 523, § 1, is amended to read:

The following types of social services, or so much of expenditures for these types of social services which do not qualify under federal legislation for payment from federal sources are designated as priority social services for payment of expenditures from state funds appropriated to carry out the purposes of this chapter:

Homemaker—Health Aide Services;

Developmental Day Care, including Family Day Care;

Services for the Mentally Retarded;

Mental Health Services;

Transportation Services;

Meals for Older People;

~~Coordinated Elderly Programs~~

Health Services for the Elderly.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA § 6111, sub-§ 4, last sentence, as repealed and replaced by P & SL 1975, c. 90, Section C, § 4, is amended to read:

The maximum percentage of state funds of the total expenditures for each type of service shall not exceed:

75% for homemaker service;

75% for developmental day care, including family day care;

75% for services for the mentally retarded;

75% for meals for older people;

75% for mental health services;

75% for transportation services;

75% for ~~coordinated elderly programs~~ health services for the elderly.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA § 6111, sub-§ 5, 1st ¶, last sentence, as last repealed and replaced by P & SL 1975, c. 90, Section C, § 4, is amended to read:

The minimum percentage for nonstate resources of the total expenditures for each type of service shall be:

25% for homemaker service;

25% for developmental day care, including family day care;

25% for services for the mentally retarded;

25% for meals for older people;

25% for mental health services;

25% for transportation services;

25% for ~~coordinated elderly programs~~ health services for the elderly.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill substitutes "elderly health needs" for "coordinated elderly programs" as a priority social service. **Over 60 in Maine: A Progress Report**, a comprehensive study of the status and needs of Maine's elderly commissioned

in 1975 by the Maine Committee on Aging concluded that health care was a priority need of Maine's elderly, who reported health as their single most serious problem.

Services such as health and dental screening, education and preventative care are a priority social service need for the elderly but are not so listed in the bill. "Coordinated elderly programs" were initially placed in the bill to fund senior citizen clubs. Funds are available from civic organizations, municipalities and Title V of the Older Americans Act to fund clubs. In fiscal year 1975, \$23,160 Priority Social Service Program funds were allocated to "coordinated elderly services." In fiscal year 1976, no requests were made for funding under coordinated elderly services.