

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 412

H. P. 321

House of Representatives, February 10, 1977

On motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Ms. Goodwin of Bath.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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AN ACT to Revise the Laws Relative to the State Military and Naval  
Children's Home.

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

**Sec. 1.** 34 MRSA § 1, 1st ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 756, § 10, is further amended to read :

The Department of Mental Health and Corrections, as heretofore established, hereinafter in this Title called the "department," shall have general supervision, management and control of the research and planning, grounds, buildings and property, officers and employees, and patients and inmates of all of the following state institutions: The hospitals for the mentally ill, Pineland Center, the State Prison, the Maine Correctional Center, the ~~Military and Naval~~ Bath Children's Home and such other charitable and correctional state institutions as may be created from time to time.

**Sec. 2.** 34 MRSA § 2517, as amended by PL 1971, c. 62, § 10, is further amended to read :

§ 2517. **Bath Children's Home**

This chapter shall be applicable to the support of children admitted to the ~~Military and Naval~~ Bath Children's Home; the word "support" as used in this section shall be synonymous with the words "care and treatment" as used in this chapter.

**Sec. 3.** 34 MRSA § 2951 is repealed and the following enacted in its place :  
§ 2951. **Bath home declared a state institution; purposes**

**The Bath Children's Home is declared to be a state institution, the purpose of which is the shelter and care of children of this State who are in need of it**

due to one or more of the following reasons: Lack of appropriate alternative shelter and care, potential or actual abuse or neglect, or family crisis and upheaval, preference being given to the children of veterans of Maine who have served in the various wars in which the United States has been engaged. The Department of Mental Health and Corrections shall have charge of the affairs of the Bath Children's Home. Its head shall be called the superintendent.

Sec. 4. 34 MRSA § 2952 is repealed.

Sec. 5. 34 MRSA § 2953, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 293, is amended to read:

§ 2953. Residency beyond the age of 18 years

Any child in residence at the ~~Military and Naval~~ Bath Children's Home, who at the expiration of his or her minority is a participant in an educational or vocational training program, the interruption or cessation of which will be caused by discharge from the home, may, with the approval of the superintendent, voluntarily elect to remain in residence at the home until completion of all or part of such educational or training program.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

It is the purpose of this bill to more accurately reflect the purposes and functions of the institution which has been known as the State Military and Naval Children's Home. This bill also changes the name of the facility to the Bath Children's Home. This home has developed the specialized capacity to provide a home-like environment for those children who, on a short or long-term basis, have no appropriate residence or supervision available. The home is capable of serving as an important alternative resource in instances of potential or actual child abuse or neglect, as well as providing temporary relief for families in crisis. Preference for admission has been, and will continue to be, to children of veterans.