

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2085

H. P. 2010

House of Representatives, January 17, 1978

Governor's Bill. The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Najarian of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-EIGHT

**AN ACT to Abolish the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Improvement Fund and Make Appropriation from the General Fund to Continue Existing Programs.**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 3172-A, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 482, § 1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA § 3172-B is enacted to read:

§ 3172-B. Moneys received; credit to General Fund; unencumbered balance

1. Fund. All moneys received by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections under section 3172-A which are generated by services rendered at any of the mental health and mental retardation institutions operated by that department shall be credited to the General Fund.

2. Transfer of cash receipts. An amount equal to 100% of the total cash receipts in any fiscal year shall be transferred to the General Fund.

3. Transfer of unencumbered balances. All unencumbered balances generated from revenues received in prior years shall be transferred to the General Fund.

4. Budget. Those mental health and mental retardation programs receiving legislative approval for funding for fiscal year 1978 shall be considered current services by the Bureau of the Budget when next preparing a budget.

**Sec. 2. Effective date.** Title 22, section 3172-B, subsections 1, 2 and 3 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 1979.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to eliminate a special revenue account which has been a recommendation of past Legislatures as well as the Maine Management Cost Survey. Elimination of this fund will result in approximately \$3.5 million of estimated revenue credited to the General Fund annually, as well as the transfer of \$1.7 million in unexpended revenues from prior years' revenues. This bill provides that those programs now being funded by the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Improvement Fund shall receive appropriations from the General Fund and be subject to the normal budgetary process requiring legislative review and approval. These programs currently include services to children, community mental health programs, community mental retardation services and services to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections.