

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 683

S. P. 231

In Senate, February 21, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Najarian of Cumberland.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Facilitate the Placement and Care of Handicapped Individuals in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities.**

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

**Sec. 1.** 22 MRSA § 3173, 2nd ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 714, § 2, is amended by adding a new sentence at the end to read:

**For the purpose of assuring the availability and accessibility of appropriate skilled nursing, intermediate care or boarding care for individuals with specified physical, mental, social or emotional handicaps, as determined by the department and particularly including mental or emotional disorders, reimbursement for those handicapped individuals shall be established at a level at least 10% above the standard reimbursement rate for those classified as being without those handicaps.**

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$88,000	\$125,000

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The needs of psychiatric and other handicapped clients in nursing homes require care above and beyond that necessary for nonpsychiatric and other nonhandicapped clients. This is not reflected in classification decisions or reimbursement rates. As a result, it is extremely difficult to place certain clients in the community and maintain them there. Consequently, there is an overuse of state institutions for these clients and increased costs to the State.