

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1220

H. P. 951

House of Representatives, March 13, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Brannigan of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Require a Study of a Single State Source for Funding and Reporting by Residential Programs for Youth.

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

Sec. 1. State departments to study requirements and report. The Commissioner of Human Services shall submit a written report to the Legislature on establishing a single state source for funding of and reporting by residential programs for youths. The Commissioners of Mental Health and Corrections and of Educational and Cultural Services shall cooperate in the study as requested by the Commissioner of Human Services, and shall be entitled to make their individual, separate comments as part of the report. For purposes of this Act, a residential program for youth shall mean any children's home as defined in the Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1667, but shall not include foster homes or any governmental agency or institution. The report shall be submitted to the Legislature not later than January 15, 1980.

At a minimum the report shall contain the following:

1. Study of fund sources. A study of fund sources available from any state agency, whether the funds are from State or Federal Governments, including at a minimum:

- A. A description of the terms under which the funds are made available to the State and subsequently to residential programs for youth;
 - B. An estimate of the amount of the funds estimated to be available for the programs in the State for the current and next state fiscal years; and
 - C. A description of the cycle by which the funds are made available including an indication by month of deadlines for applying for funds, award of funds, and fiscal years for obligation and expenditure.
- 2. Study of requirements.** A study of requirements by any state agency for reports from any residential program for youths, including, but not limited to, reports on fund requirements and use, and an operation of programs, indicating:
- A. The content and frequency of the report;
 - B. The period for which the report is prepared; and
 - C. The purpose of the report.
- 3. Description of system.** A description of a feasible, single state funding and reporting system for residential programs for youth, which establishes one office or agency within one of the 3 departments participating in the study, and has the following features:
- A. Use of a single procedure and fiscal year for all funding administered by the State, whether from state or federal sources, including application for, award of, accounting for and reporting on all of the funds; and
 - B. Use of a unified reporting system, under which all reports required by state agencies are consolidated, resulting in one periodic report made to the single office or agency.
- The description shall include drafts of any legislation, executive orders and rules necessary to implement it.
- 4. Evaluation.** An evaluation of the single state funding and reporting system, required to be described in subsection 1, including the minority views of any participating department.

STATEMENT OF FACT

There are currently over 20 residential centers for youth operating in the State, excluding foster homes and governmental agencies and institutions, with a capacity of over 300 children.

Each of these centers receives the bulk of its funds from 3 state department's, Educational and Cultural Services, Human Services and Mental Health and Corrections, and is required to prepare reports to each department. A center may be required to prepare over 15 requests for funding to the 3 departments, using

several different fiscal years. Each of these funding sources is likely to generate at least one reporting system, in addition to other reports required. The result is duplication of effort; excessive paperwork; and the creation of barriers to effective management and control by both the centers, in the management of their program, and the State in the support of these programs.

The purpose of this bill is to require the 3 departments, with leadership by the Department of Human Services, to conduct a study and devise a single state funding and reporting system. The study is to be completed and a report made to the Legislature by January 15, 1980.