

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1470

H. P. 1209

House of Representatives, March 27, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Nelson of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Amending Admission Procedures at Pineland Center and Elizabeth  
Levinson Center.

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

Sec. 1. 34 MRSA § 2654, sub-§ 4, ¶ C is enacted to read:

C. If the report of the interdisciplinary team concludes that a preschool, aged 0 to 5, child is developmentally delayed and is in need of infant development center services, the department, through the interdisciplinary team, shall develop and begin to implement a prescriptive program plan for this client within 60 days of the application made under section 2653.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA § 2657-A, sub-§ 6 is enacted to read:

6. Short-term diagnosis and treatment. When considered necessary by the interdisciplinary team and with the consent of the superintendent, individuals may be admitted to the Elizabeth Levinson Center short-term evaluation program for a period of 40 program days, excluding weekends, without certification.

Sec. 3. 34 MRSA § 2659-A, sub-§ 3, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 635, § 7, is amended by inserting at the end the following new sentences:

The certification hearing shall be confidential. No report of the proceedings shall

**be released to the public or press, except by permission of the client or his counsel and with the approval of the court. The court may order a public hearing at the request of the client or his counsel.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill introduces 3 changes in the admission procedures for Pineland and Elizabeth Levinson Centers. These are for the purposes of:

1. Providing for admission of young children to the infant development center when it is too early to assign a label of retardation;
2. Providing for admission to Levinson's short-term evaluation program. The program includes some community-home residency and some short stays at the Levinson Center; and
3. Providing for confidentiality of admission certification hearings.