

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 942

H. P. 788

House of Representatives, February 20, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Brenerman of Portland.

Cosponsors: Representative Brannigan of Portland, Senator Gill of Cumberland and Senator Wood of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Provide Funding for Respite Care for the Families of Physically and Emotionally Handicapped and Retarded People.

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

Sec. 1. Legislative intent. The Legislature recognizes that the most effective and least expensive form of care for the physically and emotionally handicapped and retarded citizens is maintaining them in the setting of their own families to the extent possible. The Legislature further recognizes that constant, around-the-clock care constitutes a severe drain on the financial and personal resources of such families. Consequently, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide respite or relief care for the handicapped and retarded participants in such families from time to time to assist them in caring for such individuals.

Sec. 2. Authorization. The Commissioners of Human Services and Mental Health and Corrections are authorized to jointly enter into a contract with Holy Innocents' Home Care Service to provide respite care services to assist the families of retarded and handicapped individuals for the use of the appropriation in section 3 made on such terms and conditions as they may prescribe.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1981-82	1982-83
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$10,000	\$15,000
Funds are to provide respite care services under this Act.		

STATEMENT OF FACT

This authorization and appropriation will permit the continuation of state funding for a respite care program for the families of handicapped and retarded citizens.

Such a contract will allow assistance for approximately 75 families to provide the best and least expensive care for their members during the biennium.

It will also help fulfill the state's obligations for care under the Pineland consent decree. Funding of this type was recommended by the 1980 Blaine House Conference on Families.