

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1006

H. P. 840

House of Representatives, February 25, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Locke of Sebec.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide Free Fishing Licenses to Mentally Retarded and Chronically Mentally Ill Persons.

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

12 MRSA § 7076, sub-§ 8-A is enacted to read:

8-A. **Mentally retarded and chronically mentally ill persons.** The commissioner may, upon application, issue a complimentary fishing license to any resident of this State who is 16 years of age or older, and also mentally retarded or chronically mentally ill. The application shall be accompanied by a statement that the applicant is mentally retarded or chronically mentally ill. Upon request of the commissioner the Bureau of Mental Retardation shall establish the validity of the statement of mental retardation or chronic mental illness, either by showing that the applicant is a client of the bureau or by contacting the applicant and verifying this statement. The applicant shall also state that he is receiving financial assistance from the State, Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Under current statutes, patients or inmates in state institutions or nursing or boarding homes may get free fishing permits for group excursions within a 25-mile radius of the institution or facility.

As a result of deinstitutionalization proceedings, there are many mentally retarded or chronically mentally ill persons living with relatives or in group homes. In order to permit as much normalization of their lives as possible, this bill allows them to apply for free fishing licenses.

If the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has any concerns about the statement of chronic mental illness of mental retardation, he will then consult with the Bureau of Mental Retardation.