

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 742

6
7 H.P. 522

House of Representatives, February 27, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
9 suggested and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Connolly of Portland.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Perkins of Hancock, Representative Lisnik of
Presque Isle and Representative Smith of Mars Hill.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Assure Appropriate Education and
18 Treatment of People who are Deaf
19 or Hearing Impaired.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§10, ¶A, sub-¶35-A is
24 enacted to read:

25 (35-A) Human Services: Bureau of Not Au- 34-B MRSA
26 Mental Health Mental Health thorized §3006
27 Advisory
28 Committee

29 Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §§3005 and 3006 are enacted to
30 read:

31 §3005. Services to persons who are deaf or hearing
32 impaired

1 The Bureau of Mental Health shall establish a
 2 therapeutic residence program for persons who are
 3 deaf and in need of residential mental health treat-
 4 ment. The therapeutic residence program shall be op-
 5 erated in conjunction with existing rehabilitation,
 6 education, mental health treatment and housing re-
 7 sources.

8 The therapeutic residence program shall be
 9 staffed by individuals trained in mental health
 10 treatment and proficient in deaf communication.

11 §3006. Coordination of services

12 There is established a 7-member Bureau of Mental
 13 Health Advisory Committee. The committee shall in-
 14 clude representatives of the Bureau of Rehabilita-
 15 tion, Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, the Bureau
 16 of Mental Health, a Legislator, a community service
 17 provider, a parent of a deaf adult, a deaf adult and
 18 the State Protection and Advocacy Agency for the De-
 19 velopmentally Disabled in Maine established under Ti-
 20 tle 22, section 3551.

21 The committee shall advise the Department of Hu-
 22 man Services, the Department of Educational and Cul-
 23 tural Services and the Department of Mental Health
 24 and Mental Retardation on the operation of the
 25 therapeutic residence program as established in sec-
 26 tion 3005.

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

	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
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31	<u>MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETAR-</u>	
32	<u>DATION, DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
33	Bureau of Mental Health	
34	Advisory Committee	
35	All Other	\$70,000
	\$90,000	

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill requires the Bureau of Mental Health to establish a residential treatment program for deaf adults. It requires the bureau to utilize existing resources to the extent possible.

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The Bureau of Mental Health and the Bureau of Rehabilitation have separately identified several deaf adults in need of the proposed service. The Bureau of Rehabilitation alone has identified 25 people who are not served or are served inappropriately.

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For these identified people, rehabilitation for employment cannot begin until an appropriate treatment program is available. As a result, many people may continue on welfare programs who might, instead, become taxpayers. Additionally, a few people who are deaf are in expensive out-of-state placements because local alternatives are not available, or they are in inappropriate treatment programs in the mental health institutes.

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