

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)  
2 SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 1897

7  
8 H.P. 1353 House of Representatives, January 17, 1986  
9 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council  
pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

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

11 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Nadeau of Lewiston.

12 Cosponsored by Senator Gauvreau of Androscoggin, Senator Berube of  
Androscoggin and Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake.

13 STATE OF MAINE  
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX  
17

18 AN ACT to Provide Funding for Community  
19 Mental Health Programs.  
20

21 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-  
22 lature do not become effective until 90 days after  
23 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

24 Whereas, funding is needed immediately to provide  
25 trained crisis workers to respond to those citizens  
26 with crucial mental health care needs; and

27 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,  
28 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of  
29 the Constitution of Maine and require the following  
30 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-  
31 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
32 therefore,

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

1           **Appropriation.** The following funds are appropri-  
2 ated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes  
3 of this Act.

4		<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
5	<u>MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RE-</u>		
6	<u>TARDATION, DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
7	Positions	(5)	(5)
8	Personal Services	\$32,514	\$136,555
9	All Other	<u>21,715</u>	<u>92,938</u>
10	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$54,229</b>	<b>\$229,493</b>

11           These funds are to be  
12 used for a crisis sta-  
13 bilization program for  
14 people with mental ill-  
15 ness living in the  
16 Lewiston-Auburn area pur-  
17 suant to the mandate of  
18 the Department of Mental  
19 Health and Mental Retar-  
20 dation under the Maine  
21 Revised Statutes, Title  
22 34-B, section 3602, to  
23 provide for the expansion  
24 of community mental  
25 health services.

26           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited  
27 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-  
28 proved.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2           Each year there are between 600 and 700 psychiat-  
3           ric hospital admissions from the Lewiston,  
4           tri-county, area; of these, 150 to 200 are admissions  
5           to the Augusta Mental Health Institute. Some of  
6           these hospitalizations and other serious life interrup-  
7           tions may be effectively averted with the addition  
8           of a mobile, outreach-oriented, 24-hour, 7 days a  
9           week crisis stabilization service. These funds provide  
10          5 trained crisis workers who will be available  
11          to respond, whenever and wherever needed, to people  
12          with mental illness who are experiencing increased  
13          symptoms resulting in behavior that put them at risk  
14          of dislocation or hospitalization. These workers  
15          have immediate access to respite housing and the use  
16          of trained home health aides to provide support and  
17          supervision to the person in crisis.

18           It is estimated that this program, when fully op-  
19          erational, will result in about 150 respite housing  
20          admissions each year and about 400 other types of  
21          crisis stabilization service interventions for the  
22          same period.

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