

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (After Deadline)
2 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 2245

8 H.P. 1592

House of Representatives, March 20, 1986

9 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
10 pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake.

Cosponsored by Senator Gill of Cumberland.

12
13 STATE OF MAINE
14

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

18 AN ACT Concerning Transitional Services for
19 Handicapped Persons Beyond School Age.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSa c. 308 is enacted to read:

24 CHAPTER 308

25 TRANSITIONAL SERVICES COORDINATION PROJECTS
26 FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS

27 §7801. Purpose

28 It is the purpose of this chapter to stimulate
29 through the activities of pilot projects a more ef-
30 fective and efficient delivery of services to handi-
31 capped youths in transition from school to the commu-
32 nity by:

1 1. Coordination. Coordinating existing programs
2 presently provided for these youths by the Department
3 of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health
4 and Mental Retardation, the Department of Educational
5 and Cultural Services and other public and private
6 agencies;

7 2. Delivery. Delivering services only to meet
8 identified unmet needs; and

9 3. Future recommendations. Using results of
10 these pilot projects to determine the best direction
11 for future recommendations to serve this population.

12 §7802. Definitions

13 As used in this chapter, unless the context oth-
14 erwise indicates, the following terms have the fol-
15 lowing meanings.

16 1. Adult service agencies. "Adult service agen-
17 cies" are those public and private agencies which
18 provide services, as defined in this section, to
19 youths and adults who are no longer eligible for
20 school services due to graduation or becoming
21 age-ineligible under Title 20, section 7001, subsec-
22 tion 2.

23 2. Handicapped youths in transition. "Handi-
24 capped youths in transition" are those youths who
25 have attained the age of 14 years and meet the eligi-
26 bility criteria as defined in the United States Reha-
27 bilitation Act, Public Law 93-112, Section 504, as
28 amended.

29 3. Services. "Services" means those activities
30 undertaken to screen, evaluate, identify, plan and
31 provide special education, habilitation, rehabilita-
32 tion, vocational and related services to handicapped
33 persons in transition from school to community.

34 4. Transition. "Transition" means the coordina-
35 tion of school-based efforts and services with those
36 services that are or will be provided by adult ser-
37 vice agencies in preparation for later employment,
38 community integration and independent living.

1 §7803. Interdepartmental coordination

2 An Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for
3 Handicapped Youth in Transition pursuant to Title 5,
4 chapter 379, representing the Department of Educa-
5 tional and Cultural Services, the Department of Human
6 Services, the Department of Mental Health and Mental
7 Retardation and the public, shall be appointed by the
8 3 commissioners to work with the department to estab-
9 lish guidelines, including continuation applications,
10 to monitor grants and to evaluate the performance of
11 programs developed through the grants.

12 The members of this committee shall be compen-
13 sated in accordance with Title 5, chapter 379.

14 §7804. Authorization for expenditure of funds

15 1. Pilot projects. Through a competitive pro-
16 cess the committee, as established in section 7803,
17 shall select and fund pilot project sites designed to
18 demonstrate the effective delivery of services to
19 handicapped youths in transition by coordinating ex-
20 isting programs, where possible, and establishing a
21 mechanism for ongoing coordination of programs for
22 handicapped youths in transition at a local or re-
23 gional level, including local educational agencies,
24 community mental health centers, regional mental re-
25 tardation services, regional rehabilitation programs
26 and other public and private agencies as appropriate.
27 Each pilot project shall establish a method to iden-
28 tify unserved and underserved handicapped youths in
29 transition and develop services for these youths.

30 2. Rules. The committee shall promulgate rules
31 that assure participation at the local level by agen-
32 cies currently serving handicapped youths in transi-
33 tion from school to community. They shall require
34 that existing resources for providing services to
35 handicapped youths in transition be exhausted prior
36 to using grants funds to provide services.

37 3. Fiscal agent. The agency, institution or
38 school administrative unit receiving a grant under
39 this chapter may function only in the role of fiscal
40 agent, as described in rules promulgated by the de-
41 partment for regulating the local administration of
42 these programs.

1 4. Local coordinating committee. A local coordinat-
2 ing committee, organized prior to application
3 for receipt of a grant, shall be responsible for govern-
4 ance of each local program. Membership shall include
5 representatives of transitional services programs in the
6 region to be served by the grant; representatives of the
7 appropriate regional offices of the Department of Human
8 Services and the Department of Mental Health and Mental
9 Retardation; representatives of participating school adminis-
10 trative units; representatives of adult service agencies, including
11 rehabilitation facilities; parents of handicapped children;
12 and other community members as appropriate. Terms of
13 membership and methods of appointment or election shall
14 be determined by local coordinating committee bylaws, subject
15 to approval of the committee. Responsibilities of local
16 coordinating committees shall be detailed in the rules promul-
17 gated by the committee.
18
19

20 5. Evaluation. Continuous evaluation of the pi-
21 lot projects shall be required and shall be an integral
22 part of each pilot project. The committee shall determine
23 the expected outcome goals of the pilot projects and shall
24 cause to be developed an evaluation design to determine the
25 success of the pilot projects.
26

27 The 3 commissioners shall present to the Legislature
28 an interim report prior to December 15, 1987. This
29 report shall provide an assessment of the planning
30 efforts of the State Interdepartmental Coordinating
31 Committee for Handicapped Youths in Transition. In
32 addition, this report shall contain any recommendations,
33 including legislation for the continuation or
34 expansion of the pilot projects.

35 The 3 commissioners shall present to the Legislature
36 a final report prior to December 15, 1988. This
37 report shall provide an evaluation summary of the pilot
38 projects and recommendations, including legislation,
39 necessary to carry out a statewide service delivery
40 system with an implementation schedule to begin July
41 1, 1989.

42 §7805. Transitional services coordinator

1 The position of transitional services coordinator
2 to the Department of Educational and Cultural Ser-
3 vices, Division of Special Education shall be estab-
4 lished to coordinate the department's activities and
5 involving both the Bureau of Vocational Education and
6 the Division of Adult Education, regarding the coor-
7 ordinated delivery system for handicapped youths in
8 transition from school to community. This coordina-
9 tor will also serve as staff to the committee as es-
10 tablished in section 7803.

11 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3055, sub-§8, as enacted by PL
12 1969, c. 457, §1, is amended to read:

13 8. Eligibility and priority. Shall determine the
14 eligibility of individuals for rehabilitation ser-
15 vices or evaluation and work adjustment services and
16 the priority therefor, in accordance with rules and
17 regulations established by the department-; and

18 Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3055, sub-§9 is enacted to
19 read:

20 9. Transitional services coordination projects.
21 Shall participate in the coordination of rehabilita-
22 tion services with local transitional services coor-
23 ordination projects for handicapped youths, as estab-
24 lished in Title 20-A, chapter 308, assigning appro-
25 prate regional staff and resources as available and
26 necessary in each region to be served by a project.

27 Sec. 4. 34-B MRSA §3004, sub-§3, ¶¶B and C, as
28 enacted by PL 1983, c. 580, §6, are amended to read:

29 B. Assess service needs, monitor service deliv-
30 ery related to these needs and evaluate the out-
31 come of programs designed to meet these needs in
32 order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of
33 community support services; and

34 C. Prepare a report which describes the system
35 of community support services in each of the men-
36 tal health service regions and statewide.

37 (1) The report shall include both existing
38 service resources and deficiencies in the
39 system of services.

1 (2) The report shall include an assessment
2 of the roles and responsibilities of mental
3 health agencies, human services agencies,
4 health agencies and involved state depart-
5 ments and shall suggest ways in which these
6 agencies and departments can better cooper-
7 ate to improve the service system for peo-
8 ple with chronic mental illness.

9 (3) The report shall be prepared biennially
10 and shall be submitted to the joint standing
11 committee of the Legislature having juris-
12 diction over health and institutional ser-
13 vices by January 15th of every even-numbered
14 year.

15 (4) The committee shall review the report
16 and make recommendations with respect to ad-
17 ministrative and funding improvements in the
18 system of community support services to per-
19 sons with chronic mental illness-; and

20 Sec. 5. 34-B §3004, sub-§3, ¶D is enacted to
21 read:

22 D. Participate in the coordination of services
23 for persons with chronic mental illnesses with
24 local transitional services coordination projects
25 for handicapped youth, as established in Title
26 20-A, chapter 308, assigning appropriate regional
27 staff and resources as available and necessary in
28 each region to be served by a project.

29 Sec. 6. 34-B MRSA §5433, sub-§§3 and 4, as en-
30 acted by PL 1983, c. 459, §7, are amended to read:

31 3. Cooperation. Cooperate with other state
32 agencies, municipalities, other governmental units,
33 unincorporated associations and nonstock corporations
34 in order to provide and help finance services and
35 programs for mentally retarded persons; and

36 4. Available funds. Receive and use for the
37 purpose of this ~~Article~~ article money appropriated by
38 the State, grants by the Federal Government, gifts
39 from individuals and money from any other sources-;
40 and

1 Sec. 7. 34-B MRSA §5433, sub-§5 is enacted to
2 read:

3 5. Transitional services coordination projects.
4 Participate in the coordination of services for men-
5 tally retarded persons with local transitional ser-
6 vices coordination projects for handicapped youths,
7 as established in Title 20-A, chapter 308, assigning
8 appropriate regional staff and resources as available
9 and necessary in each region to be served by a
10 project.

11 Sec. 8. Appropriation. . The following funds are
12 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
13 purposes of this Act.

14		<u>1986-87</u>
15	<u>EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SER-</u>	
16	<u>VICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
17	Division of Special Educa-	
18	tion	
19	Positions	(2)
20	Personal Services	\$ 53,000
21	All Other	<u>300,000</u>
22	TOTAL	\$353,000

23 These funds will be
24 used by the department,
25 acting as fiscal agent
26 to fund 6 local coordi-
27 nated transitional ser-
28 vices demonstration
29 projects. Five percent
30 of the funding to each
31 pilot project must be
32 used for evaluation.

33	<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
34	Bureau of Rehabilitation	
35	Positions	(5)
36	Personal Services	\$125,000

1 Provides funding for 5
2 special project reha-
3 bilitation counselor
4 positions for a term
5 not longer than the
6 term of the local dem-
7 onstration pilot
8 projects.

9 MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RE-
10 TARDATION, DEPARTMENT OF

11	Bureau of Mental Health	
12	All Other	\$125,000
13	These funds are to be	
14	used for the purchase	
15	of transitional ser-	
16	vices for youths in	
17	each local demonstra-	
18	tion project area.	
19	Bureau of Mental Retarda-	
20	tion	
21	All Other	<u>125,000</u>
22	TOTAL	\$250,000
23	These funds are to be	
24	used for the purchase	
25	of transitional ser-	
26	vices for youths in	
27	each local demonstra-	
28	tion project area.	

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 Every year approximately 1,000 special education
3 students graduate from public schools in Maine. Many
4 other disabled youths leave school each year, often
5 because of problems related to their disabling condi-
6 tion. Many students reach the age of 20 and are, by
7 law, no longer eligible for special education. Their
8 need for education and training continues, but
9 school-funded services come to an end. They leave
10 school with additional and on-going needs for the de-
11 velopment of skills, information and even the values
12 that can allow them to succeed in the labor market.
13 To address these problems, requires parents, educa-
14 tors and service providers to reexamine long-held as-
15 sumptions about what is appropriate for handicapped
16 students. It requires the development of coordinated
17 state and local systems that will dissolve the bound-
18 aries that presently characterize a social service
19 system based on categorical funding. An interdepart-
20 mental committee at the state level can plan and op-
21 erate local coordinating projects that will organize
22 and provide transitional services for handicapped
23 youth, by bringing these separate agencies and
24 factions together. This approach allows exploration
25 for the best long-term solutions while providing much
26 needed and overdue transitional services immediately.
27 Funds appropriated in this bill will assure an ade-
28 quate and appropriate level of state agency support
29 and participation with the local coordinating commit-
30 tees and cooperating agencies and organizations.

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