

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 406

S.P. 152

In Senate, February 19, 1987

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.

Cosponsored by Representative ANTHONY of South Portland,
Senator GILL of Cumberland, Representative KIMBALL of Buxton.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for Elderly Mental Health
Services Specialists.

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

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

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
<u>MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL</u> <u>RETARDATION, DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
All Other	\$240,000	\$240,000

1 These funds provide
2 for elderly mental
3 health services spe-
4 cialists in each of
5 the 8 mental health
6 service areas of the
7 State. These indi-
8 viduals will provide
9 direct home-based
10 counseling to elder-
11 ly persons suffering
12 from grief, losses
13 and depression and
14 supportive counsel-
15 ing and training to
16 caregivers of per-
17 sons with Alzheimers
18 disease and other
19 significant mental
20 and emotional ill-
21 nesses. They will
22 provide training and
23 supervision to other
24 mental health coun-
25 selors and others
26 who provide service
27 to the elderly. In
28 doing so, they will
29 represent pilot pro-
30 grams in the devel-
31 opment of elderly
32 mental health ser-
33 vice programs.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 Of the 140,118 people aged 65 and over in the
3 State approximately 25% or 35,230 have significant,
4 acute mental health needs. Severe depression is a
5 common reaction to failing health and other involun-
6 tary life changes. Chronic mental problems are more
7 difficult to manage in old age. In addition, many
8 families struggle to help elderly relatives to cope
9 with the yet unexplained dementias that affect some
10 elderly persons. The provision of elderly mental
11 health services specialists is supported by recommen-
12 dations of the Joint Advisory Committee to Maine's
13 Bureau of Elderly Services and the Bureau of Mental
14 Health and the Federal Task Force on Alzheimers Dis-
15 ease and Related Disorders.

16

1765020487