

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. 487

S.P. 172

In Senate, February 23, 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 PEARSON of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative COLES of Harpswell,
Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Support the Growth and Development
2 of Community Big Brothers-Big Sisters Agencies
3 and Other Similar Organizations.
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1063 is enacted to read:

8 CHAPTER 1063

9 SPECIAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN

10 \$3951. Funds

11 1. Purposes. The Department of Human Services
12 may receive and disburse funds made available to it
13 for financial support grants or contracts to Big

1 Brothers-Big Sisters of Maine programs or other simi-
2 lar certified programs for the following purposes:

3 A. Identification of children, 7 to 18 years of
4 age, eligible for services, through assessment
5 and evaluation, consultation with families and
6 group activities;

7 B. Volunteer recruitment, screening, assessment,
8 training and referral;

9 C. Direct services to eligible children, matched
10 volunteers and client families; including, but
11 not limited to, case support, guidance and coun-
12 seling, crisis intervention, monitoring, training
13 and group activities; and

14 D. Follow-up services to clients and their fami-
15 lies, including reevaluations, referrals and
16 group activities.

17 2. Distribution of funds. As far as practica-
18 ble, the department shall make funds available to all
19 areas of the State. Funds shall be awarded to sup-
20 port existing Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Maine pro-
21 grams, and other similar certified programs, and new
22 programs expanding into or locating in areas not cur-
23 rently served.

24 3. Local match. Any Big Brothers-Big Sisters of
25 Maine program, or other similar nationally certified
26 program, that applies for funds under this chapter
27 shall demonstrate a match of either private dona-
28 tions, local funding or in-kind resources in accord-
29 ance with policies of the Department of Human Ser-
30 vices.

31 §3952. Rules

32 The Commissioner of Human Services is authorized
33 and directed to adopt rules to implement this chapter
34 to reflect widely accepted and current services which
35 are presently provided. The commissioner shall con-
36 sult with other child-serving state agencies, Big
37 Brothers-Big Sisters of Maine and other appropriate
38 parties. Allocations shall be based on the alloca-
39 tion scheme recommendations developed in consultation

1 with Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Maine, a coalition
2 of all existing, nationally certified Big
3 Brothers-Big Sisters programs in the State.

4 \$3953. Lapse

5 Funds made available to the department for the
6 purposes of this chapter, whether from state, federal
7 or private purposes, shall not lapse, but shall be
8 carried forward to the next fiscal year to be ex-
9 pended for the same purposes.

10 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are
11 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
12 purposes of this Act.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
14 <u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>		
15 <u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
16 All Other	\$193,000	\$193,000

17 STATEMENT OF FACT

18 This bill provides funds to support the efforts
19 of Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Maine programs,
20 community-based organizations which serve children at
21 risk of developing social, emotional and behavioral
22 problems due to insufficient adult guidance and sup-
23 port.

24 Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Maine target services
25 to children in families, including low-income single
26 parent families, which experience indicates are like-
27 ly to need intervention services, since preventative
28 measures provided by their program often do not ful-
29 fill the need. The primary prevention strategy used
30 by Big Brothers-Big Sisters agencies is a one-to-one
31 matching of adult volunteers to client children.

32 Big Brothers-Big Sisters' national affiliation
33 ensures that the programs they implement are effec-
34 tive and meet strict standards for provision of such
35 services.

1 Funds are intended to meet identified needs of
2 children, especially in areas not yet served by ex-
3 isting Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Maine programs.

4 A state commitment to intervention is intended to
5 result in decreased need for intervention services.

6

1304020387