MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY) FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 536

H.P. 402 House of Representatives, February 24, 1987 Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative CARROLL of Gray.
Cosponsored by Senators GILL of Cumberland, GAUVREAU of
Androscoggin and Representative BOUTILIER of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 2 3 4	AN ACT to Require Legislative Approval and Public Hearings for any Plan to Decentralize the Pineland Center Facility.
5 6 7	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis- lature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
8 9 10 11 12	Whereas, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has promulgated a request for architects' proposals to develop 5 50-bed facilities and several 6 and 12-bed facilities for the mentally retarded; and
13 14	Whereas, this proposal is designed to decentral- ize the Pineland Center facility and no legislative

approval has been given or authorized for such a

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plan; and

1 2 3 4	Whereas, there is considerable evidence that the size of the facilities contemplated in the departmental grant are not in the best interests of retarded citizens; and
5 6	Whereas, ample alternatives can be developed to better serve these clients' interests; and
7 8 9 10 11	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
13 14	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

34-B MRSA §1203, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

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16	7. Approval or modification of decentralizing
17	plans. The commissioner shall submit to the Legisla-
18	ture for approval or modification of any plans for
19	decentralizing the Pineland Center facility by remov-
20	ing its residents and placing them in facilities
21	throughout the State. The Legislature shall hold
22	public hearings throughout the State to assure public
23	input to these plans before approval or modification.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.

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