

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 653

H.P. 486 House of Representatives, March 5, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative LISNIK of Presque Isle.

Cosponsored by Representatives McGOWAN of Canaan, JOSEPH
of Waterville and Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Ensure Job Training Assistance to
2 All Aid to Families with Dependent
3 Children.
4

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

8 Whereas, the Welfare, Education and Employment
9 Training Program, which provides training and employ-
10 ment opportunities to Aid to Families with Dependent
11 Children parents with the goal of enabling them to
12 become self-sufficient and to eliminate their depen-
13 dency on public assistance, has suffered a substan-
14 tial reduction in federal financial support in the
15 last year; and

1 Whereas, many more Aid to Families with Dependent
2 Children recipients are in need of and have requested
3 training and employment services from the Welfare,
4 Education and Employment Training Program than it can
5 presently provide; and

6 Whereas, this unavailability of funds will post-
7 pone the point at which these Aid to Families with
8 Dependent Children recipients will be able to be
9 self-sufficient at great cost to them and the state;
10 and

11 Whereas, an opportunity does now exist to match
12 State money that has already been appropriated for
13 the Welfare, Education and Employment Training Pro-
14 gram with federal dollars, thus increasing the reve-
15 nue available to the program; and

16 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
17 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
18 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
19 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
20 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
21 therefore,

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

24 Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are
25 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
26 purposes of this Act.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
27		
28	<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPART-</u>	
29	<u>MENT OF</u>	
30	Aid to Families with	
31	Dependent Children	
32	All Other	\$250,000 \$300,000

1 Provides funds to provide
2 direct "special needs"
3 payments to welfare, em-
4 ployment, education and
5 training clients.

6 Sec. 2. Allocation. The following funds are al-
7 located from the Federal Expenditure Fund to carry
8 out the purposes of this Act.

9		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
10	<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DE-</u>		
11	<u>PARTMENT OF</u>		
12	Aid to Families with De-		
13	pendent Children		
14	All Other	\$531,250	\$637,500

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 The Welfare, Employment, Education and Training
17 Program (WEET) provides employment and training op-
18 portunities to Aid to Families with Dependent Chil-
19 dren recipients seeking to become self-sufficient.
20 Maine's WEET program, established in 1982, has at-
21 tracted national attention as an innovative and suc-
22 cessful model for assisting Aid to Families with De-
23 pendent Children recipients move from welfare to
24 work.

25 The demand for employment and training services
26 is now much greater than the program can provide.
27 Cuts in federal funds have reduced the program's
28 ability to meet demands for its services even fur-
29 ther. The bill authorizes the State to match certain
30 money already appropriated with federal funds there-
31 fore increasing the number of clients able to be
32 served. The amount appropriated in this bill may be
33 reallocated from the existing state appropriation for
34 WEET and so does not require any additional state ap-
35 propriation.

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