

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 774

H.P. 576 House of Representatives, March 13, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative ROLDE of York.
Cosponsored by Senators DUTREMBLE of York, KERRY of York
and Representative MURPHY of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **AN ACT to Assure an Equitable Level of Mental**
2 **Health Services in York County.**
3

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

6 **Appropriation.** The following funds are appropri-
7 ated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes
8 of this Act.

9		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
10	<u>MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RE-</u>		
11	<u>TARDATION, DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
12	Bureau of Mental Health		
13	All Other	\$125,000	\$150,000

1 Funding to be allocated
2 by the Bureau of Mental
3 Health to York County
4 Counseling Services to
5 carry out the purposes
6 of this Act.

7 STATEMENT OF FACT

8 In fiscal year 1981, York County experienced a
9 loss of \$600,000 in public funding with the conver-
10 sion of categorical mental health center funding to a
11 block grant administered by the State. No other area
12 of the State experienced a similar reduction in pub-
13 lic funding. The program most adversely affected was
14 outpatient counseling services for adults and chil-
15 dren.

16 In fiscal year 1980, the outpatient staff for
17 children and adults numbered 17 (11 - 6). In fiscal
18 year 1986, the outpatient staff numbered 11 (7 - 4),
19 a reduction of over 30%, even though the population
20 during the 6-year period increased by 20%, over
21 27,000 residents, 139,566 to 166,800.

22 The 1986 Bureau of Mental Health plan documented
23 that while the average of Bureau of Mental Health
24 funded outpatient services for the State is for 139
25 persons per 10,000 population, in York County the
26 level of state funding is for only 90 per 10,000 pop-
27 ulation.

28 The current waiting lists for outpatient ser-
29 vices, especially for children, is creating major
30 hardships for families under severe emotional stress.
31 The projected population increases will only intensi-
32 fy that stress and create major costs in other areas,
33 such as welfare, school dropouts, divorce and the
34 criminal justice system.

35 The appropriation in this bill will be a major
36 first step in providing to York County residents the
37 same level of outpatient mental health services pro-
38 vided to the rest of the State.

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