

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. 828

H.P. 610 House of Representatives, March 18, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative CARTER of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Representative MANNING of Portland,
Senator GILL of Cumberland, and Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Create Housing Options for Homeless
Mentally Ill People.**

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

Appropriation. The following funds are appropri-
ated 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 RE-</u> <u>TARDATION, DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
All Other	\$508,000	\$750,000

1 Funds to be used as
2 follows: \$198,000 in
3 1987-88 and \$225,000 in
4 1988-89 to provide
5 rental subsidies to in-
6 dividuals to enable
7 them to afford and
8 maintain other than the
9 substandard, dangerous
10 lodging that their lim-
11 ited fixed income cur-
12 rently allows. Subsi-
13 dies to be administered
14 by mental health commu-
15 nity support programs
16 which will assure that
17 people also are con-
18 nected with rehabilita-
19 tive and support ser-
20 vices they require.
21 This program will serve
22 up to 150 people state-
23 wide; \$245,000 in
24 1987-88 and \$525,000 in
25 1988-89 to develop and
26 maintain specialized
27 community group resi-
28 dences for people who
29 need more support and
30 structure. These resi-
31 dences will have staff
32 in-house around the
33 clock and will not have
34 a limited length of
35 stay; people may stay
36 as long as they need
37 this level of support.
38 This will create 6 resi-
39 dences over a 2-year
40 period. They will be
41 located across the
42 State; and \$65,000 to
43 support the development
44 of a 20-unit coopera-
45 tive apartment program
46 in the Portland area,
47 specifically for people

1 with mental illness.
2 This program will be
3 administered by Shalom
4 House. While people
5 would be living inde-
6 pendently in newly con-
7 structed safe and de-
8 cent housing, they
9 would also be involved
10 with the community sup-
11 port program and have
12 case managers who will
13 visit them at their
14 home as often as
15 needed.

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

17 This bill seeks to improve the availability of
18 safe, decent and affordable housing for people with
19 mental illness, in a way that assures that people are
20 linked with the necessary rehabilitative and support
21 services they need to be successful in the community
22 by providing funds to the Department of Mental Health
23 and Mental Retardation to develop supported residen-
24 tial programs for people who are mentally ill and
25 homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The funds
26 would provide a range of housing options geared to
27 the varying levels of independence.

28 People with mental illness are heavily repre-
29 sented among the growing number of people in Maine
30 who cannot afford and are unable to maintain decent
31 and safe housing. State Government has undertaken a
32 comprehensive study of homelessness which indicates
33 that several economic factors, including inadequate
34 levels of Supplemental Security Income, general as-
35 sistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children and
36 other entitlements, are coupled with an extremely
37 limited availability of low-income housing to create
38 50,000 or more households comprising 118,000 individ-
39 uals who are at serious risk of homelessness and up
40 to 350 people who are actually without a home. Of
41 these numbers, 1/3 or more are also mentally ill.
42 This high percentage results from the fact that peo-

1 ple with mental illness have disabilities that cause
2 them to have difficulty finding and keeping a job and
3 therefore they are often quite poor. These same dis-
4 abilities make it difficult to compete in the housing
5 market. A range of community residential options
6 linked closely with necessary support services is es-
7 sential to enable people with psychiatric disabili-
8 ties to take advantage of community resources and
9 function more independently in all aspects of life.

10

1319022587