

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1279

H.P. 950 House of Representatives, April 15, 1987 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk Presented by Representative ANTHONY of South Portland. Cosponsored by Representatives CONNOLLY of Portland, FOSS of Yarmouth, and Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 2 3 4	AN ACT to Create Regional Detention and Evaluation Centers for the Secure Confinement of Juveniles.
5 6	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
7 8	<pre>Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §3802, sub-§3 is enacted to read:</pre>
9	3. Detention and evaluation facility. To accom-
10	plish the purposes set out in subsection 1, paragraph
1,1	B, the State shall maintain a youth detention and
12	evaluation facility in central Maine, to provide se-
13	cure detention and court-ordered examinations and di-
14	agnostic evaluations as well as out-patient court-
15	ordered examinations and diagnostic evaluations for
16	juveniles not requiring detention, pursuant to Title
17	15, section 3309-A, and Title 15, section 3318.

Page 1-LR1760

1 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are 2 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the 3 purposes of this Act.

1987-88 1988-89

5 <u>CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT</u> 6 <u>OF</u> 7 All Other \$339,420 \$359,785

STATEMENT OF FACT

At present, the Maine Youth Center is the sole correctional facility in Maine which is capable of 9 10 11 providing secure detention and evaluation of juve-12 niles for the courts. However, the youth center's primary mission is to manage the escalating popula-tion of committed offenders. Provision of services 13 14 15 youth prior to commitment or adjudication diverts to 16 these resources from the youth whom they were in-17 tended to serve. In addition, the demand on these 18 informally reallocated resources has become so great 19 that periods in confinement for the purpose of evaluation has increased from an average of 2 weeks to over a month. Such a response serves neither the 20 21 22 courts nor the juvenile.

23 Moreover, the site of the youth center, in the 24 sourthern part of the State, entails travel of great 25 distance in many cases. This is both costly and un-26 necessarily disruptive to the youth.

27 These problems are addressed by the creation of a 28 12-bed facility in the central part of the State. 29 Such a facility would eliminate the demand on the 30 youth center for predisposition detention and evalua-31 tion services. Resources would also be made for out-patient assessment of other juveniles not requir-ing detention. Varying levels of security would be 32 33 necessary to accommodate the needs of a diverse juve-34 nile population. In addition to correctional offi-35

Page 2-LR1760

8

4

cers, the facility would employ appropriate mental health diagnostic personnel or would contract for need services.

