

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Emergency)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1996

S.P. 737 In Senate, January 7, 1988
Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative
Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial
Affairs suggested and ordered printed.
JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President PRAY of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative TAYLOR of Camden,
Representative CLARK of Brunswick.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Prevent Mental Health Service
Reductions.

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2
3
4 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the
5 Legislature do not become effective until 90 days
6 after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

7 Whereas, the 90-day period may not terminate
8 until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

9 Whereas, there have been statewide increases of

1 about 200% in the cost of liability insurance and
2 workers' compensation, increases in salaries of
3 comparable state service positions which create
4 significant differences in comparison to community
5 service programs, a history of deficits among
6 community programs which have resulted in reductions
7 of available services and a lack of any reserve for
8 facility depreciation, repairs or improvements; and

9 Whereas, the consequent inability to prevent
10 reductions in services leads to greater, more costly
11 and personally more intrusive use of state hospital
12 commitments; and

13 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
14 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
15 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
16 legislation as immediately necessary for the
17 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;
18 now, therefore,

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

21 **Appropriation.** The following funds are
22 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
23 purposes of this Act.

24 1988-89

25 MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION,
26 DEPARTMENT OF

27 Bureau of Mental Health

28 All Other \$430,820

29 Bureau of Children with Special
30 Needs

1

All Other

114,680

2 Total

\$545,500

3 These funds are to
4 provide a 5% increase
5 in all contracted
6 direct service funds
7 administered by the
8 Bureau of Mental
9 Heath and the Bureau
10 of Children with
11 Special Needs.

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

15

STATEMENT OF FACT

16 As reflected by the emergency preamble, an
17 increase in costs and service needs has and, unless
18 this bill is adopted, will continue to result in
19 reductions in services. A 1 1/2% increase in adult
20 services and no increases for children's services in 6
21 years has exhausted the capacity of community mental
22 health services to adequately respond to serious needs.

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