

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Emergency)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2001

S.P. 742 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 Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator GILL of Cumberland, Representative
CLARK of Brunswick, Representative TAYLOR of Camden.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide Elderly Mental Health
Service Needs.

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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 until
8 after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

9 Whereas, the inaccessibility of appropriate mental

1 health services for elderly persons causes unnecessary
2 institutionalization, lack of support for boarding and
3 nursing home residents or significant hardship in
4 sustaining independent living; and

5 Whereas, the anticipated increase in the State's
6 elderly population requires the development of greater
7 accessibility to mental health services; and

8 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these
9 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the
10 Constitution of Maine and require the following
11 legislation as immediately necessary for the
12 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;
13 now, therefore,

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

16 **Appropriation.** The following funds are
17 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
18 purposes of this Act.

19 1988-89

20 MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL
21 RETARDATION, DEPARTMENT OF

22 All Other \$120,000

23 These funds are to provide
24 for elderly mental health
25 services specialists in 4
26 of the 8 service areas of
27 the State - York, Cumber-
28 land, the tri-county area
29 (Androscoggin, Oxford and
30 Franklin Counties) and
31 eastern Maine (Piscataquis,
32 Penobscot, Hancock and
33 Washington Counties).

34 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency
35 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when
36 approved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 There are at least 35,230 people age 65 and over
3 in Maine with significant, acute mental health needs,
4 yet only about 7,000 receive appropriate services.
5 Maine's rate of psychiatric hospitalization is, unlike
6 that for other age groups, well over the national
7 average for elderly people. Physicians and other
8 hospital personnel have clearly noted the problems
9 related to the lack of continuity of care in the
10 community for elderly patients. The provision of
11 elderly mental health service specialists is supported
12 by the Joint Advisory Committee to the Bureau of
13 Maine's Elderly and the Bureau of Mental Health.

14 On a demonstration basis, these specialists will
15 provide home-based (including nursing and boarding
16 home) assessments, service planning and direct
17 treatment to elderly persons suffering from
18 depression, paranoia, personality disorders, affective
19 disorders and other significant mental and emotional
20 illnesses. The services specialists will provide
21 counseling and support to caregivers for elderly
22 people with serious illnesses. They will also provide
23 training and supervision to mental health and other
24 services personnel. In doing so, they will
25 significantly contribute to the development of elderly
26 mental health service programs.

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