

# (EMERGENCY) SECOND REGULAR SESSION

#### ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

# Legislative Document

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NO. 2108

H.P. 1548 House of Representatives, January 21, 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.

EDWIN H. PERT. Clerk

Presented by Representative PARADIS of Augusta. Cosponsored by Representatives CARTER of Winslow, FOSTER of Ellsworth and Senator PEARSON of Penobscot.

#### STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide Prevocational Services for Persons with Long-Term Mental Illness.

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

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

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1 Whereas, neither existing mental health nor 2 vocational rehabilitation resources are adequate for 3 the training and support necessary to prepare persons 4 with long-term mental illness for reentry into the 5 employment sector; and

6 Whereas, a significant number of persons with 7 long-term mental illness are prevented from entering 8 into rehabilitation or employment by the lack of such 9 services; and

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

16 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as 17 follows:

18 Appropriation. The following funds are
19 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
20 purposes of this Act.

1988-89

### 22 <u>MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION,</u> 23 DEPARTMENT OF

24 Bureau of Mental Health

25	All Other
26	These funds are to be
27	allocated by the
28	Bureau of Mental
29	Health through a
30	request for proposals
31	for prevocational
32	programs to be
33	provided to people
34	with prolonged and
35	severe mental illness

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\$400,000

21

1 in several areas of 2 the State. Work 3 training and 4 adjustment, personal 5 care and 6 communications are to 7 included be in 8 services to prepare 9 clients for 10 vocational 11 rehabilitation 12 eligibility and 13 future supportive and 14 independent 15 employment.

16 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency 17 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when 18 approved.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

20 This bill provides prevocational program support to the approximately 8,000 people in this State with 21 severe and prolonged mental illness. 22 Currently, 23 relatively few of these people have access to vocational rehabilitation due to the presumption that 24 25 a high potential for successful they lack 26 rehabilitation. The provision for prevocational services is a fundamental step in assuring appropriate eligibility and completion of a rehabilitation 27 28 29 program. The program support provided in this bill is essential to assure the rehabilitation of persons 30 31 having severe and prolonged mental illness.

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