

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)

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2238

H.P. 1639 House of Representatives, February 11, 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 ANTHONY of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives NADEAU of Lewiston, DAVIS
of Monmouth and Senator GILL of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **AN ACT to Protect the Well-Being of Young**
2 **Children and to Help Prevent Emotional**
3 **and Behavioral Disorders.**
4

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

7 **Appropriation.** The following funds are
8 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the

1 purposes of this Act.

2 1988-89

3 MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION,
4 DEPARTMENT OF

5 Bureau of Children with Special
6 Needs

7 All Other \$80,000

8 These funds shall be
9 used, under the
10 direction of the
11 Interdepartmental
12 Coordinating Committee
13 for Preschool
14 Handicapped Children,
15 to provide services
16 for families with
17 children under age 5
18 who have been
19 identified as showing
20 signs of emotional or
21 mental health
22 difficulties. The
23 department shall
24 contract for 2 workers
25 with specialized
26 training to provide
27 these services.

28 STATEMENT OF FACT

29 Increasing numbers of infants and young children
30 with behavioral or emotional problems in need of
31 family-oriented mental health treatment are being
32 identified by health professionals and day care
33 providers, or the families themselves are seeking help
34 for their young child's apparent difficulties.
35 However, there are not enough services currently
36 available to meet the needs of these families and
37 children. Failure to address mental health problems

1 when first identified frequently leads to more serious
2 difficulties later in childhood, including school
3 failure, delinquency and severe mental illness
4 necessitating lengthy residential treatment.

5 This bill provides for services to these children
6 and families on a pilot basis. Screening and
7 treatment services will focus on carefully working
8 with parents to help them identify strengths and
9 weaknesses and develop a better understanding of their
10 child and their roles as parents. Special training in
11 infant and preschool mental health will be made
12 available to service providers.

13 The funds will be administered by the Department
14 of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Bureau of
15 Children with Special Needs, under the direction of
16 the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for
17 Preschool Handicapped Children (ICCPHC). The services
18 will be evaluated by this committee and a report of
19 their effectiveness will be brought back to the
20 Legislature.

21

3902122287