

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 2240

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H.P. 1641 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 ROLDE of York.

Cosponsored by Senators CLARK of Cumberland and GILL of  
Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to Establish a  
University-Based Training Program for  
Substance Abuse Counseling and Employee  
Assistance.

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

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

1 purposes of this Act.

2 1988-89

3 EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,  
4 DEPARTMENT OF

5 Division of Higher Education

6 All Other \$50,000

7 These funds shall be  
8 used to support a  
9 university-based  
10 program of  
11 professional training  
12 in substance abuse  
13 counseling and  
14 employee assistance.  
15 The department shall  
16 provide these funds  
17 through a  
18 request-for-proposal  
19 grant process. The  
20 funded program will  
21 train professionals  
22 not only to counsel,  
23 but also to prevent  
24 substance abuse  
25 through promotion of  
26 overall physical and  
27 mental health.

28 STATEMENT OF FACT

29 Substance abuse is one of the major health  
30 problems facing our nation and our State. The State  
31 has responded to the need for the treatment and  
32 prevention of substance abuse in a number of ways. In  
33 the mid 1970's, the Legislature established a program

1 of certification for substance abuse counselors. In  
2 the late 1970's, the Legislature implemented a program  
3 of taxation, in the form of the liquor tax,  
4 specifically to fund programs of treatment, education  
5 and prevention. In the years that have followed, a  
6 variety of programs of treatment, employee assistance  
7 and community education have been developed and  
8 implemented. Programs of education, primarily  
9 continuing education, have been developed for the most  
10 part by substance abuse treatment agencies. The  
11 universities and colleges of this State have  
12 participated on a limited basis in these programs and  
13 have occasionally sponsored summer institutes or  
14 workshops. However, programs designed specifically to  
15 train substance abuse counselors and employee  
16 assistance coordinators have not been developed nor  
17 have there been consistent programs of continuing  
18 education for the substance abuse counselors presently  
19 certified or for the other professionals in our State  
20 who are "treating" substance abuse.

21 This bill will provide funds for the first  
22 university-based program in Maine, a program which is  
23 very much needed by community agencies, providers and  
24 educators.

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