

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Title)
(NEW DRAFT OF H.P. 1453, L.D. 1964)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2588

H.P. 1894 House of Representatives, March 28, 1988
Reported by Representative Telow from the Committee on
Business Legislation and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Original bill sponsored by Representative DIAMOND of
Bangor. Cosponsored by President PRAY of Penobscot, Senator
PERKINS of Hancock and Representative ALLEN of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **RESOLVE, to Study the Need to Increase**
2 **the Supply of Reimbursable Mental Health**
3 **Professionals.**
4

5 **Study. Resolved:** That the Department of Mental
6 Health and Mental Retardation shall conduct a study to
7 determine the availability of mental health
8 professionals in all parts of the State and assess
9 methods of increasing access to mental health
10 professionals where access is limited either statewide

1 or in selected geographic areas; and be it further

2 **Criteria of need. Resolved:** That, in
3 determining need, the department shall develop
4 explicit criteria for assessing need which
5 differentiates between the need for professionals
6 experienced by state agencies, nonprofit agencies
7 providing services under contract with the State and
8 clients of private providers; and be it further

9 **Inventory. Resolved:** That the department shall
10 make an inventory of all mental health professionals
11 in the State by geographic area, discipline, types and
12 amount of academic and clinical training and employing
13 organization. The inventory shall differentiate
14 between those mental health professionals currently
15 eligible for 3rd-party reimbursement and those not
16 presently eligible. The inventory shall try to
17 discover the number of mental health professionals who
18 are not practicing in their field and the reason for
19 their not working as mental health professionals; and
20 be it further

21 **Cause of need. Resolved:** That, if the
22 department determines there is a need for additional
23 mental health professionals in a certain treatment
24 discipline or geographic area of the State, the
25 department shall assess whether the shortage could be
26 most efficiently met by increasing the incentives for
27 professionals to settle in underserved areas or by
28 increasing the types of professionals eligible for
29 3rd-party reimbursement; and be it further

30 **First report. Resolved:** That the department
31 shall report to the First Regular Session of the 114th
32 Legislature its finding on the need for mental health
33 professionals in the State and the cause of the
34 shortage. If the department determines that there is
35 a shortage, the department shall also submit a copy of
36 the report to the Department of Professional and
37 Financial Regulation; and be it further

38 **Cost analysis. Resolved:** That the Department
39 of Professional and Financial Regulation shall study
40 the cost of increasing incentives to attract mental

1 health professionals to underserved areas or
2 individuals into disciplines with a statewide shortage
3 of professionals. The department shall also assess
4 the cost of expanding the types of mental health
5 professionals who are eligible for 3rd-party
6 reimbursement; and be it further

7 **Second report. Resolved:** That the Department of
8 Professional and Financial Regulation shall submit a
9 report to the Legislature by October 1, 1989 on the
10 cost of increasing the availability of mental health
11 professionals. Working with the Department of Mental
12 Health and Mental Retardation, the Department of
13 Professional and Financial Regulation shall include
14 the necessary legislation to eliminate the shortage.

15 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

16 This resolve sets up a process for the Department
17 of Financial and Professional Regulation and the
18 Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to
19 assess the need for additional mental health
20 professionals, determine the cost of increasing the
21 number of professionals and propose legislative
22 recommendations.

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