

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2623

S.P. 990 In Senate, April 6, 1988
Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative
Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.
Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial
Affairs and ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.
JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative PINES of Limestone, Senator
GILL of Cumberland, Representative ANTHONY of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Implement Emergency
Recommendations from the Task Force on
Incapacitated and Dependent Adults.

1
2
3
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
9 purposes of this Act.

1988-89

2 HUMAN SERVICES,
3 DEPARTMENT OF

4 Social Services - Regional

5	Positions	(5)
6	Personal Services	\$126,245
7	All Other	26,600
8	Capital Expenditures	2,000

9
10 Total \$154,845

11 Provides funds for 5
12 additional caseworkers
13 for public
14 guardianship/conser-
15 vatorship cases.

16 Administration -
17 Social Services

18	Positions	(1)
19	Personal Services	\$26,090
20	All Other	3,500
21	Capital Expenditures	400

22
23 Total \$29,990

24 Provides funds for a
25 Research Associate II
26 to staff an
27 interdepartmental
28 coordination unit to
29 improve coordination
30 of services among
31 departments that deal
32 with incapacitated and
33 dependent adults.

34
35 **TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS** \$184,835

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 For one year the Task Force on Incapacitated and
3 Dependent Adults studied Maine's support system for
4 the diverse population of incapacitated and dependent
5 adults. Their report contained many recommendations
6 to improve the lives of this population in the State.
7 This bill appropriates funds for additional personnel
8 to serve these clients immediately to meet emergency
9 needs in an incremental manner and give the Department
10 of Human Services time to study the report.

11 The Department of Human Services' Public
12 Guardianship/Conservatorship Program has grown 250% in
13 the last 2 1/2 years, with no accompanying increase in
14 staff. The 5 new positions will allow present
15 caseloads for guardianship and conservatorship
16 caseworkers to be reduced and allow more specialized
17 services to wards. Direct service time spent on
18 guardianship and conservatorship cases has increased
19 from 9% to 19% in 1986. These are more difficult
20 cases and require more worker time, especially to
21 safely, keep the wards as independent as possible.

22 The 2nd appropriation is for a full-time staff
23 person. The task force's top priority is a committee
24 for the interdepartmental coordination of services to
25 adults to address policy and service issues for adults
26 at risk. This will be a long term effort to address
27 needs of adults in Maine, determine responsibility for
28 current and new services and develop a viable service
29 system for the adult population. This work requires a
30 full-time staff person.

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