

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 211

S.P. 126

In Senate, February 16, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PERKINS of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Representative CARROLL of Gray, Representative WENTWORTH of Wells and Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Provide Adequate Salaries for Workers in Residential Treatment
Facilities for Emotionally Disturbed Children.**



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

3 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §8152, sub-§4-A, as enacted by PL 1987, c.
816, Pt. GG, §1, is amended to read:

5
7 4-A. Provision for adequate salaries. The committee shall,
9 in establishing rates, take into account the importance of
11 recruiting and retaining qualified child care staff in the
13 current labor market. The rates established by the committee
15 shall provide funds adequate to meet increased staff costs,
including increased base salaries for residential child care
staff. The Department of Human Services is directed to increase
Medicaid ceiling levels for the following facilities to allow
adequate funding of staff costs to meet competitive wages
statewide:

17 A. Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded;
and

19 B. Waiver homes, as approved by the Bureau of Mental
21 Retardation; and

23 C. Residential treatment centers.

25 The minimum wage reimbursement shall be based on an average
27 starting wage of \$5.25 ~~\$6~~ per hour in ~~areas with an unemployment~~
~~rate of 5% or less.~~

29 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §8152, sub-§4-B is enacted to read:

31 4-B. Funding. The rates for residential treatment centers
33 shall provide funds adequate to pay wages and salaries to mental
35 health professionals and special education teachers in those
facilities at levels comparable to those paid to state employees
performing similar duties in state institutions.

37

STATEMENT OF FACT

39

41 Residential treatment centers in Maine, in addition to
43 providing vital services to troubled youth in the State, serve as
45 essential training grounds for special education teachers, mental
47 health professionals and direct care workers serving emotionally
disturbed children. However, the centers are often unable to
retain these staffers, many of whom take their invaluable
training elsewhere for higher pay.

47

49 This bill addresses that problem by requiring the Children's
51 Residential Treatment Committee, in its contracting process, to
ensure that adequate funding is available to permit residential
treatment centers to pay competitive wages to their direct child

1 identification of an inmate attempting to escape from a maximum
security facility and the responsibility of knowing, once that
3 identification has been made, that inmate's criminal record and
the likelihood of that inmate using deadly force during or after
5 the escape.