

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 884

H.P. 650

House of Representatives, March 22, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUFFY of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Representative CONSTANTINE of Bar Harbor, Representative LISNIK of Presque Isle and Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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An Act to Increase Staffing of Child Development Workers.

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

3 **Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the  
5 General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

7 **1989-90** **1990-91**

9 **MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL  
RETARDATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

11 **Bureau of Children with  
Special Needs**

13

15	Positions	(6)	(6)
16	Personal Services	\$152,046	\$165,612
17	All Other	35,000	35,000
18	Capital Expenditures	3,000	

19 Provides funds for 6 Mental  
20 Health and Mental Retardation  
21 Caseworkers, one for each  
22 region served by the Bureau  
23 of Children with Special  
24 Needs, to visit the homes of  
25 preschool children with  
special needs.

27 **DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
28 AND MENTAL RETARDATION  
29 TOTAL**

**\$190,046** **\$200,612**

31

33

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

35

37 This bill provides funds for 6 mental health and mental  
38 retardation caseworkers, one for each region served by the Bureau  
39 of Children with Special Needs. Child development workers  
40 provide a wide range of case management, therapeutic and  
41 educational services to children up to 5 years old with  
42 handicapping conditions, children with developmental disabilities  
43 and children who are at risk and their families throughout the  
44 State. They work for the Bureau of Children with Special Needs  
45 and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.  
46 Waiting lists exist for their services in each of the bureau's 6  
47 regions. Even for those children who are currently seen, many  
48 should be seen more frequently each week or each month. This is  
49 currently impossible due to the size of caseloads of the existing  
child development workers. Child development workers work  
closely with parents to organize and coordinate services a child

1 might need from allied health specialists such as physical  
2 therapists, occupational therapists or speech therapists. Child  
3 development workers, with parents and these other specialists,  
4 plan educational and developmental programs for the children on  
5 their caseloads and help parents learn the skills to carry out  
6 these programs on a daily or regular basis. Child development  
7 workers assist families in finding supportive services they might  
8 need such as transportation, Supplemental Security Income, other  
9 disability coverage, respite-care services or other family  
support services.