

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1224

S.P. 452

In Senate, April 18, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PERKINS of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Representative LISNIK of Presque Isle, Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin and Senator GOULD of Waldo.

### STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Ensure Accessible Mental Health Services To Deaf Children and Adults



**Committee established. Resolved.** That the Committee to Develop a Comprehensive Mental Health Plan for Deaf Children is established; and be it further

**Membership. Resolved:** That the committee shall consist of the following 12 members to be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of this resolve: six members to be appointed by the Director of the Bureau of Mental Health and 6 members to be appointed by the Superintendent of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf; and be it further

**Development of plan. Resolved:** That the committee shall develop a comprehensive mental health plan for children who are deaf. In developing this plan, the committee shall consider ways to facilitate the development of community-based services for deaf children; and be it further

**Committee meetings. Resolved:** That, when the appointment of all committee members is complete, the Governor shall call the committee together for its first meeting within 30 days. At the first meeting, the members shall elect a chair; and be it further

**Report. Resolved:** That the committee shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the 115th Legislature no later than January 15, 1991; and be it further.

**Staff; compensation. Resolved:** That the committee shall request necessary staff assistance from the Legislative Council. Any members of the committee who are Legislators shall receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for days in attendance at commission meetings. All members of the committee, except for employees of State Government, shall receive reimbursement for expenses upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council; and be it further

**Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1989-90

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

## Bureau of Mental Health

All Other

\$95,000

Provides funds to provide for 2 case managers in central and northern Maine; provide interpreter services and

1 telecommunications equipment;  
2 and support the expenses of a  
3 study committee in its  
4 development of a mental  
5 health plan for children who  
6 are deaf.  
7

## 8 9 10 STATEMENT OF FACT

11  
12 This bill establishes a committee to develop a comprehensive  
13 mental health plan for children who are deaf. The need for such  
14 a plan was identified in the report and recommendations of a  
15 children's services subcommittee of the Maine Advisory Council on  
16 Deafness in 1986. The resulting plan will facilitate the  
17 development of community-based services for deaf children.

18  
19 This bill also provides funds for mental health services for  
20 deaf persons. Currently, case management services are available  
21 to deaf persons in southern Maine. This bill appropriates funds  
22 to assure equal accessibility of mental health services to  
23 persons with deafness in all parts of the State.

24  
25 Finally, this bill also provides funds to expand the  
26 availability of interpreter services and telecommunications  
27 equipment from private mental health practitioners.