

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1257

H.P. 900

House of Representatives, April 20, 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

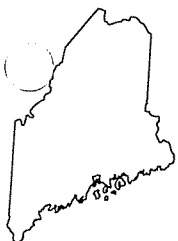
Presented by Representative ANTHONY of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative MELENDY of Rockland, Representative POULIOT of Lewiston and Representative MCGOWAN of Canaan.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Provide Medicaid-reimbursable Mental Health Services to
Families with Infants and Toddlers.**



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

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

5 1989-90 1990-91

7 MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION,
9 DEPARTMENT OF

11 Bureau of Children with Special Needs

13 All Other \$150,000 \$157,500

15 These funds shall be used
16 under the direction of the
17 Interdepartmental
18 Coordinating Committee for
19 Preschool Handicapped
20 Children to provide mental
21 health treatment and related
22 services to infants and
23 children under the age of 5,
24 and their families. Services
25 will be offered at 3 rural or
26 community health centers and
27 2 pediatric or general
28 practice offices on a pilot
29 basis. The coordinating
30 committee and the bureau
31 shall cause the services to
32 be independently evaluated in
33 terms of the effectiveness of
34 the services, the efficiency
35 of their delivery and the
36 overall extent of the need
37 for these services in the
38 State. A report of this
39 evaluation, and its
40 conclusions, shall be
41 submitted to the next
42 legislative session following
43 the expenditure of each
44 year's funds.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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Under this bill, Maine's 27 rural or community health centers, presently eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for ambulatory health care for children and adults would become delivery sites for Medicaid-reimbursable mental health services

1 for infants, young children and their families. Activities
3 supported by this appropriation in 3 pilot health centers will
5 enable the effectiveness and efficiency of this proposal to be
field-tested, and the full extent of the need and utilization of
these services in underserved areas of Maine to be assessed.

7 Additionally, the appropriation will support similar
9 services delivered from 2 physicians' offices, where infants,
young children and their families are already seen for the
11 promotion of physical health. At present such services are not
Medicaid reimbursable; the activity and its evaluation will
13 permit the relative value of this possible expansion of the
Medicaid program to be assessed.

15 It is estimated that \$150,000 will support services to 120
17 patients per week in the 5 locations and will generate at least
\$50,000 additional Medicaid dollars. The funds will also support
19 services to persons not Medicaid eligible on a sliding fee scale,
based upon family income.

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