

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 883

S.P. 327

In Senate, February 28, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.

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

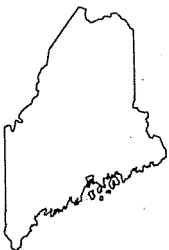
JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland
Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and Representative MANNING of
Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

Resolve, to Establish a Respite Care Demonstration Project.



2 **Sec. 1. Respite Care Demonstration Project. Resolved:** That the
3 Department of Human Services shall, by rule, establish a
4 demonstration project to provide respite care for individuals
5 requiring long-term care, but who have caregivers able to provide
6 that care at home. Respite care means short-term nursing or
7 boarding home care for individuals requiring such care so that
8 the caregivers may be given relief from the burdens of providing
9 that care. In the development of these rules, the department
10 shall consult with associations representing care facilities,
11 area agencies on aging and the Maine Committee on Aging.

12 The rules at a minimum must provide that:

14 1. The department shall solicit proposals from nursing and
15 boarding homes to set aside and hold open beds for a 2-year
16 period for the purpose of providing respite care. A target
17 of 20 nursing and 10 boarding home beds must be set;

18 2. Facilities selected to provide services under this
19 project must be distributed as evenly as possible across the
20 State;

22 3. The department shall pay the facilities' current per
23 diem rate for the beds held open;

24 4. Facilities will be required to fill these beds with
25 those clients requiring respite care services; and

26 5. The department, the facilities chosen and area agencies
27 on aging will share responsibility for publicizing the
28 availability of the service; and be it further
29

30 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the department shall, by
31 December 1, 1993, report to the Joint Standing Committee on Human
32 Resources the results of the project, including in the report an
33 analysis of utilization of the services by Medicaid eligible
34 clients; the effect, if any, on delaying the need for permanent
35 placement in facilities; and the cost impact on the Medicaid
36 budget.
37

38 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

39 The bill proposes a 2-year demonstration project in which
40 short-term nursing and boarding home respite care services are
41 made available to Medicaid eligible clients. The Department of
42 Human Services solicits proposals from nursing and boarding homes
43 throughout the State. Under the proposals, the department
44 reimburses the facilities their current rates to hold open 2 beds
45 in each nursing home and one bed in each boarding home selected
46 to participate for respite care clients. The Department of Human
47 Services
48
49
50

Services and area agencies on aging are responsible for
2 publicizing the availability of the services. Because occupancy
at these facilities is currently very high, this does not result
4 in increased costs to the Medicaid budget.

6 At the conclusion of the demonstration, the department shall
submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Human
8 Resources.