

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 239

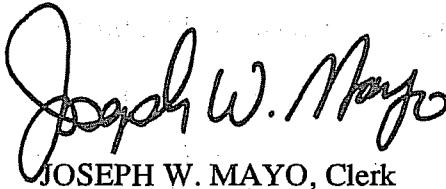
H.P. 187

House of Representatives, February 1, 1993

An Act to Provide Assistance to Homeless Persons with Mental Illness.

(EMERGENCY)

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MORRISON of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, CATHCART of Orono, FARNSWORTH of Hallowell,
FITZPATRICK of Durham, GEAN of Alfred, OLIVER of Portland, PINEAU of Jay,
RICHARDSON of Portland, SULLIVAN of Bangor, WENTWORTH of Arundel, WINN of
Glenburn, Senator: CONLEY of Cumberland.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, a significantly increasing number of Maine people with serious mental illnesses are becoming homeless, including class members from the Augusta Mental Health Institute Consent Decree; and

Whereas, shelters for the homeless lack the resources to appropriately serve this vulnerable population; and

Whereas, funds must be appropriated immediately to provide services to homeless persons with mental illness; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1993-94

MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION,
DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Mental Health

All Other	\$120,000
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Provides funds to make grants to homeless shelter operators in Maine's urban areas to assist them in meeting the needs of severely mentally ill persons who are being housed in homeless shelters. Funds must be allocated in accordance with a formula developed by the bureau with input from the Maine Coalition for the Homeless.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

2
4 This bill provides funding to assist homeless shelters in
6 urban areas to meet the special needs of severely mentally ill
persons who are homeless and are housed in homeless shelters.

8 Homeless shelters are not adequately equipped to serve
10 severely mentally ill persons. The purpose of this bill is to
12 provide short-term resources to homeless shelters to assist them
14 in meeting the immediate needs of the large numbers of mentally
ill persons who are being sheltered, until appropriate resources
are developed to serve the long-term needs of this population.