

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 149

H.P. 138

House of Representatives, January 16, 2001

An Act to Provide Services to People with Autism.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.
Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot and
Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport, COLWELL of Gardiner, DUGAY of Cherryfield,
JACOBS of Turner, LOVETT of Scarborough, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, O'BRIEN
of Augusta, SHIELDS of Auburn.

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

4 **Sec. 1. Contract for autism services.** The Department of Mental
6 Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall
8 contract with the Maine chapter of the Autism Society of America
10 to provide services to persons with autism. The contract must
12 include training for trainers who will then train persons around
14 the State and respond to the needs of families and individuals
16 seeking services or assistance. The contract must include
attendance at national Autism Society of America workshops and
training sessions, conferences and courses. The contract must
include the provision of services to schools, group homes,
employers, law enforcement agencies, health care professionals,
transition programs, social service organizations and service
groups.

18 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	2001-02	2002-03
22 MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION		
24 AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES,		
26 DEPARTMENT OF		
28 Mental Retardation		
30 All Other	\$30,000	\$30,000
32 Provides funds for training		
34 for trainers; training for		
36 persons around the State;		
38 attendance at workshops and		
40 conferences; and services to		
42 schools, group homes,		
employers, law enforcement		
agencies, health care		
professionals, transition		
programs, social service		
organizations and service		
groups.		

44 **SUMMARY**

46 This bill requires the Department of Mental Health, Mental
48 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to contract for autism
services with the Maine chapter of the Autism Society of
America. It specifies that the contracted services must include

2 training for trainers; training for persons around the State;
attendance at workshops and conferences; and services to schools,
4 group homes, employers, law enforcement agencies, health care
professionals, transition programs, social service organizations
6 and service groups. This bill appropriates \$30,000 per year for
these purposes.