

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 178

H.P. 167

House of Representatives, January 16, 2001

**An Act to Implement the Continuation of Service Recommendations of
the Committee to Develop a Compensation Program for Victims of
Abuse at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.**

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Representative LaVERDIERE for the Committee to Develop a Compensation Program for Victims of Abuse at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 127, Part B.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 218.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

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

4
6 **Whereas,** former students of the Governor Baxter School for
the Deaf and the Maine School for the Deaf have been using
counseling and mental health services provided at no cost to them
8 through the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and
Substance Abuse Services; and

10
12 **Whereas,** there should be no interruption of the provision of
these services; and

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

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

22 **Sec. 1. Continuation of services.** The Department of Mental
Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall
24 continue to offer counseling and other mental health services at
no cost to former students of the Governor Baxter School for the
26 Deaf and the Maine School for the Deaf.

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

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SUMMARY

34 This bill is a recommendation of the Committee to Develop a
Compensation Program for Victims of Abuse at the Governor Baxter
36 School for the Deaf, created by Resolve 1999, chapter 127, Part
B. The committee's final report was submitted in December 2000.

38

40 This bill requires the Department of Mental Health, Mental
Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to continue to provide
counseling and other mental health services to former students of
42 the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and the Maine School for
the Deaf. These services must be provided at no cost to the
44 service recipients.