

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

---

Legislative Document

No. 800

S.P. 279

In Senate, February 20, 2003

**Resolve, To Provide Training on Autistic Behaviors to Crisis  
Professionals**

(EMERGENCY)

---

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services 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 BLAIS of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative BERUBE of Lisbon and  
Senators: GILMAN of Cumberland, WESTON of Waldo, Representatives: LEWIN of Eliot,  
SHIELDS of Auburn.

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

4  
6           **Whereas**, funds have been appropriated for use by the  
Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services for the  
development of short-term residential services for children with  
8 mental retardation or autism; and

10           **Whereas**, these funds are scheduled to lapse if not expended  
by July 1, 2003; and

12  
14           **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  
16 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

18  
20           **Sec. 1. Services for children with autistic disorders or mental  
retardation. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Public Law 2001,  
chapter 439, Part A, the Department of Behavioral and  
22 Developmental Services shall use funds appropriated for the  
purpose of developing short-term residential services for  
24 children with mental retardation or autism in Public Law 2001,  
chapter 439, Part A to address the crisis-related needs of  
26 children with autistic disorders or mental retardation. The  
department shall provide training to reduce the reliance on  
28 emergency rooms, crisis intervention teams and inpatient services  
by children with autistic disorders or mental retardation. The  
30 department may either provide the training or contract out this  
requirement through the request-for-proposal process, but the  
32 training must begin no later than May 1, 2003.

34           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.  
36

38  
**SUMMARY**

40           Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part A appropriated \$150,000  
in fiscal year 2001-02 and \$150,000 in fiscal year 2002-03 to be  
42 used by the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services  
for the development of short-term residential services for  
44 children with mental retardation or autism. Although a request  
for proposal was done, no contract was completed in fiscal year  
46 2001-02, and \$150,000 lapsed to the General Fund.

48           This resolve directs the department to provide training to  
reduce the reliance on emergency rooms, crisis intervention teams

2 and inpatient services by children with autistic disorders or  
3 mental retardation. The department may either provide the  
4 training or contract out this requirement through a request for  
proposal. The training must begin no later than May 1, 2003.