

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 404

S.P. 128

In Senate, January 25, 2005

**An Act To Ensure the State's Continued Commitment to Former  
Students Who Were Physically or Sexually Abused at the Governor  
Baxter School for the Deaf or the Maine School for the Deaf**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President EDMONDS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative BLISS of South Portland and  
Senators: BRENNAN of Cumberland, HOBBS of York, Representatives: BOWLES of  
Sanford, PELLETIER-SIMPSON of Auburn, Speaker RICHARDSON of Brunswick.

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,** the Baxter Compensation Authority was established  
to compensate students at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf  
who suffered physical or sexual abuse; and

8  
10          **Whereas,** current funding for the Baxter Compensation  
Authority is insufficient to compensate all eligible victims; and

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

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

20                 **Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following  
appropriations and allocations are made.

22                         **BAXTER COMPENSATION AUTHORITY**

24                         **Baxter Compensation Authority**

26                         Initiative: Appropriates funds to the Baxter Compensation  
28                         Authority to be used for payment of compensation to former  
students who were victims of physical or sexual abuse at the  
30                         Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and its predecessor.

32                         

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
All Other	\$8,400,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$8,400,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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

40  
42   **SUMMARY**

44                         This bill includes a General Fund appropriation to the  
Baxter Compensation Authority to provide cash awards to former  
46                         students of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf or the Maine  
School for the Deaf who were found to have suffered physical or  
sexual abuse.