

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 421

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S. P. 177

In Senate, February 4, 1959

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Lord of Cumberland.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-NINE

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### AN ACT Creating an Interdepartmental Board on Mental Retardation.

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

**R. S., c. 25-A, additional.** The Revised Statutes are amended by adding a new chapter to be numbered 25-A, to read as follows:

#### 'Chapter 25-A.

##### Interdepartmental Board on Mental Retardation.

**Sec. 1. Declaration of intent; creation of board.** In order to make possible joint and mutual planning and action by several state agencies in regard to those problems of the mentally retarded of Maine which are of direct concern to more than one department or agency of State Government, there is created a state board to be known as the Interdepartmental Board on Mental Retardation.

**Sec. 2. Composition of board; election of chairman.** The board shall consist of the Commissioners of Education, Health and Welfare, Institutional Service and Labor and Industry, the chairman of the Employment Security Commission and the chairman of the Maine Committee on Problems of the Mentally Retarded, and one additional member from each of the 3 Departments of Education, Health and Welfare and Institutional Service. The additional member shall be in each case the person designated by the commissioner as being most directly concerned with the services to the retarded rendered by that department. The first meeting shall be called by the Commissioner of Education not later than one month after the effective date of this law. At this meeting the members shall elect a chairman to serve for one year, at the end of which year they shall elect a chairman for the succeeding year. In electing

the chairman, the members shall take into account the amount of time the person chosen will be able to devote to the duties of the office, in consideration of his other obligations.

Sec. 3. Frequency of meetings; duration of board. Meetings of the board shall be held not less often than once in 2 months.

The board shall continue for 2 years after the effective date of this act.

Sec. 4. Duties of the board. The board shall serve as an organized medium of exchange of information regarding the specific problems which concern each member; the philosophies and policies which underlie their program operations; and the development of new programs in individual agencies which may relate to and possibly serve or be served by operations in other agencies. The board shall also consult upon the effectiveness and adequacy in relation to the needs of the combined services provided by all state agencies, and shall plan jointly for the maintenance or alteration of existing services or the institution of new services, to secure adequate and comprehensive coverage with a minimum of unnecessary duplication.

The problems and areas of need to be considered by the board shall include but need not be limited to the following:

- I. Services looking to the prevention of mental retardation;
- II. Discovery and proper evaluation of the abilities of the mentally retarded and provision of counseling and guidance services for the parents and for the persons themselves;
- III. Proper education and training, including preparation for employment;
- IV. Employment adjustment services, including vocational evaluation and rehabilitation, special working conditions as needed, and facilitation of good employer-employee relations;
- V. Special needs of the retarded living in the community and, where appropriate, provision of supervision and partial support and assistance;
- VI. Selection of cases for institutionalization and for discharge from the institution.
- VII. Services in the institution;
- VIII. Prevention of the involvement in crime and of the unnecessary dependency of the retarded;
- IX. Availability and means of securing trained personnel to operate all services; and
- X. Research projects to determine the need for and effectiveness of services, and to find means of prevention or amelioration of the condition.

Sec. 5. Delegation of powers; authorization to form subcommittees. Each member of the board may delegate in writing to a deputy or other subordinate any of his powers and duties under this chapter. The board may establish for any of the several areas of its work subcommittees which may include other representatives of the departments or agencies listed in section 2.

Sec. 6. Compensation of members; utilization of departmental and agency assistance; consultation with other agencies. The members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties shall be borne by their respective departments and agencies.

The board is authorized to request any department or agency represented on the board to provide such facilities, including personnel, assistance and data, as will enable the board properly to carry out its activities.

The board may invite into consultation with itself or with its subcommittees members of other state agencies which are or should be concerned with the retarded.

Sec. 7. The board shall present to the Governor and Legislature not later than January of each legislative year a report of its activities and such recommendations as it may deem appropriate.'