

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 812**

S. P. 288

In Senate, February 18, 1959.

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Rogerson of Aroostook.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Providing for Mental Health Services.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 27, §§ 1-A - 1-B, additional.** Chapter 27 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 2 new sections, to be numbered 1-A and 1-B, to read as follows :

**'Sec. 1-A. Director of Training and Research.** The commissioner shall appoint a Director of Training and Research, subject to the Personnel Law, who shall direct, promote and coordinate appropriate research of the department, and shall plan and coordinate personnel training.

**Sec. 1-B. Personnel officer.** The commissioner shall appoint a personnel officer, subject to the Personnel Law, who shall conduct for the department appropriate surveys and reviews of job specifications, descriptions, salaries, etc. and shall act as liaison with the Personnel Board.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 27, §§ 94-A - 94-D, additional.** Chapter 27 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 4 new sections, to be numbered 94-A to 94-D, to read as follows :

**'Bureau of Mental Health.**

**Sec. 94-A. Bureau of Mental Health.** There is created within the Department of Institutional Service a Bureau of Mental Health. The bureau shall act as official liaison for receiving and using money appropriated by the State, grants by the United States Government and gifts from individuals with reference to mental health research and services.

**Sec. 94-B. Director.** The commissioner shall appoint and fix the salary of a Director of Mental Health, with the approval of the Governor and Council. The director shall be a qualified psychiatrist with administration and organization experience and ability and shall be responsible for the coordination of health services within the several municipalities of the State and the institutions within the department.

**Sec. 94-C. Advisory committee on mental health.** The Governor shall appoint a committee on mental health to consist of 9 members and appoint the chairman. Of the first appointments 3 shall be appointed for one year, 3 for 2 years and 3 for 3 years. Thereafter appointments shall be made for 3 years. In order to insure a broad contact with the problems of the municipalities in the State, the committee shall be composed of members whose chief employment is outside of the State Government.

**Sec. 94-D.** The advisory committee shall study the problems of care, custody and treatment in institutions and services; shall recommend changes and improvements to the Governor and Legislature; shall furnish leadership for community programs; shall inform the public and Legislature about mental health needs and recommend actions and programs which will meet such needs; and shall act in an advisory capacity to the Department of Institutional Service.

**Sec. 3 Amendatory clause.** Chapter 27 of the Revised Statutes shall be changed to "Department of Mental Health and Corrections." Wherever in the Revised Statutes or in the public laws the words "Department of Institutional Service" or "Commissioner of Institutional Service" appear they shall mean "Department of Mental Health and Correction" or "Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections."

**Sec. 4. Transfer from Department of Health and Welfare.** The mental health services and authority, now in the Department of Health and Welfare, shall be transferred to the Bureau of Mental Health within the Department of Mental Health and Corrections.

**Sec. 5. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$3,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960 to carry out the purposes of this act relating to the advisory committee on mental health. This appropriation shall not lapse but remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1961.