

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - N I N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 898**

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S. P. 322

In Senate, February 25, 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 to Provide Expanded Community Mental Health Services.**

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

**Sec. 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this act is to expand community mental health services; to encourage participation in such a program by persons in local communities; to obtain better understanding of the need of such services and to secure aid for the program by state aid and local financial support.

**Sec. 2. Powers.** The Department of Institutional Service may provide mental health services throughout the State, and for that purpose may cooperate with other state agencies, municipalities, persons and nonprofit corporations. The Department of Institutional Service shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations relating to the administration of the services authorized by this act. Under this act, funds will be granted by the commissioner only to those organizations whose programs provide for adequate standards of professional service. The Department of Institutional Service may receive and use for the purpose of this act money appropriated by the State and grants by the United States Government and gifts from individuals.

**Sec. 3. Municipalities and other governmental units.** A municipality or other governmental unit, such as a county, school district, health district, etc., through its local board of health or other town or governmental agency approved by the Department of Institutional Service, is authorized to adopt and carry out a program of mental health services established or approved by the Department of Institutional Service and appropriate money for that purpose. A municipality or other governmental unit may join with another municipality or governmental unit to carry out such a program.

**Sec. 4. State aid.** Upon application to the Department of Institutional Service by such municipality, governmental unit or by a nonprofit corporation organized for the improving of community health and welfare, the Department of Institutional Service may grant to the municipality, governmental unit or nonprofit organization money to be used for carrying out its mental health services.

**Sec. 5. Amount.** Such grant of money shall not exceed in any single year  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the operating expenses incurred by the municipality, governmental unit or nonprofit corporation receiving the grant after deducting from said expense the fees, if any, received for the services rendered. Consideration shall be given to the ability of the municipality or governmental unit to support the mental health services, as reflected by the State's evaluation of the component communities. For nonprofit corporations, all income and resources shall be taken into account.

**Sec. 6. Fees.** The program authorized by the Department of Institutional Service may include the providing of services by the Department of Institutional Service or the municipality, governmental unit or nonprofit corporation directly to individuals, for which a fee may be charged if the individual is financially able to pay the same. Fees received by the Department of Institutional Service, municipality, governmental unit or nonprofit corporation are appropriated to each for use in carrying out its duties under this act.

**Sec. 7. Appropriation.** There is hereby appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960, the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. The money appropriated hereunder shall be apportioned by the Department of Institutional Service in such a manner as to obtain the maximum number of participants consistent with an effective program. Any unexpended balances shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1961.