

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

PORTLAND LITHOGRAPH COMPANY
PORTLAND, MAINE
1977

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

1977

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services the sum of \$7,000 for the fiscal years 1977-78 and 1978-79, to be used to purchase histories under this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
State Library		
All Other	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 547

AN ACT Concerning Displaced Homemakers.

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA c. 29 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 29

TERMINATION OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS

§ 2501. Repeal of statutory provisions

The following statutory provisions are repealed on the dates set forth in this section.

26. Title 26.

A. Title 26, chapter 21 shall be repealed on January 1, 1980.

§ 2502. Committee reports

Any legislative committee having jurisdiction over a statutory provision listed in section 2501 shall prepare and submit to the Legislature, within 30 legislative days after the convening of the last regular session prior to the date set out in section 2501 for repeal of that provision, a report evaluating the advisability of retaining the statutory provision.

§ 2503. Contents of report

A report prepared pursuant to section 2502 shall include:

1. Past effectiveness. An evaluation of the past effectiveness of the statutory provision;
2. Future need. An evaluation of the future need for the statutory provision;
3. Alternative methods. An examination of alternative methods of attaining the purpose of the provision;
4. Cost of retention. An estimate of the cost of retaining the provision; and
5. Recommendation. A recommendation of the committee as to the amendment, repeal, replacement or retention of the provision.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA c. 21 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 21

DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS ACT

§ 1601. Displaced homemaker

As used in this chapter, "displaced homemaker" means an individual who:

1. Former worker in home. Has worked in the home for a substantial number of years providing unpaid household services for family members;
2. No gainful employment. Is not gainfully employed or is not in a position offering reasonable opportunities for advancement;
3. Difficulty in getting employment. Has had or would have difficulty in securing employment; and
4. Former dependency. Has been dependent on the income of another family member, but is no longer supported by such income, or has been dependent on federal assistance, but is no longer eligible for such assistance, or is supported as the parent of minor children by government assistance or spousal support, but whose children are within one year of reaching their majority.

§ 1602. Establishment of a multipurpose service program; grants; delegation

The Commissioner of Manpower Affairs, hereinafter in this chapter called the "commissioner," in conjunction with the Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council as provided for in section 1604, shall establish as a 2-year pilot project a multipurpose service program for displaced homemakers, which shall include the services enumerated in section 1606.

Such establishment shall be in cooperation with the Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council, pursuant to section 1604, subsection 2. The commissioner shall administer this chapter, subject to the availability of funds and

other resources. The commissioner may accept and administer cash and in-kind grants-in-aid from any public or private source for purposes authorized under this chapter.

§ 1603. Commissioner; powers

The commissioner, with the approval of the Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council, is authorized to enter into contracts with, and make grants to, entities which have been selected by the council, for the purpose of establishing a multipurpose service program under this chapter.

The commissioner may delegate any or all of the authority granted him by this chapter to other personnel within the Department of Manpower Affairs.

§ 1604. Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council

1. **Membership.** The Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council, hereinafter in this chapter called the "council," shall be composed of the following individuals:

A. The Commissioner of Manpower Affairs, or the commissioner's designee;

B. Nine individuals who have experience with the problems of displaced homemakers, career counseling or adult vocational education. The members shall be appointed by the Governor. The council shall elect its own chairman.

2. **Responsibility.** The Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council shall have the overall responsibility for establishing, monitoring and evaluating the multipurpose service pilot project in cooperation with the commissioner. The council shall be authorized to hold public hearings anywhere in the State. This responsibility includes the initial solicitation of proposals from entities interested in administering the pilot project and the selection of the sponsoring group with reference to these and other factors:

A. The degree and types of needs of displaced homemakers in a geographical area with consideration given to both rural and urban problems;

B. The availability of supplemental services within the community;

C. The availability of administrative resources such as office space and equipment which could be utilized by the project; and

D. Level of support from within the community for the project.

3. **Regulations.** The council, in consultation with the staff of the sponsoring agency, shall establish regulations concerning the eligibility of persons for the services of the project and for such other matters as the council deems necessary.

4. **Budget approval.** The council shall approve the proposed pilot project budget of any sponsoring agency in order to ensure that the expenditure of funds conforms to the purposes of this chapter.

5. Funding sources. The council shall explore, and to the extent available and appropriate, use all possible sources of funding and contributions from federal, state, local and private sources in establishing and supplementing this service program, including in-kind contributions of building space, equipment and qualified personnel for the training programs.

§ 1605. Design and staff of the multipurpose service program

1. Design. The multipurpose service program shall be designed to provide displaced homemakers with all types of counseling, training, education and assistance to enable them to become gainfully employed.

2. Staff. The staff of the sponsoring group, to the greatest extent possible, shall be filled by displaced homemakers. Where necessary, potential staff members shall be provided with any on-the-job training that would allow them to qualify for staff positions.

§ 1606. Services of the multipurpose service program

The multipurpose service program shall include, but not be limited to, notification to displaced homemakers of the program, job counseling, job training, job placement and referral services.

1. Notification of services. The sponsoring agency shall make every effort to notify displaced homemakers of the services available to them under the program.

2. Job counseling. The counseling shall be specifically designed for the person reentering the job market after a substantial number of years as a homemaker. The counseling shall take into account, and build upon, the skills and experiences of a homemaker as well as any prior skills of the individual displaced homemaker.

3. Job training and job placement. The training and placement services shall:

A. Develop, by working with state, federal and local government agencies and private employers, training, education and placement programs for jobs in the public and private sectors;

B. Assist displaced homemakers in gaining admission to existing public and private job training programs, education and opportunities, including educational loan opportunities;

C. Assist in identifying community needs and creating new jobs in the public and private sectors; and

D. Provide interest free loans not in excess of \$1,000 per recipient to develop appropriate education or training, or both.

For the purposes of administering the loan service, the Commissioner of Manpower Affairs is authorized to establish a revolving fund, into which shall be paid all general funds appropriated for the purposes of this paragraph and all repayments of loans made from such general fund appropriations, and out of which shall be paid all loans made out of such general funds. In addition, the revolving fund may be used to administer loans

from sources other than general funds, provided that all transactions from such funds shall be separately identified.

The principal amount of all loans made from general funds shall be repaid according to a schedule of approximately equal monthly payments, the total principal amount to be repaid not later than the 48th month after the date of the loan. The first monthly payment may be delayed until the 12th month after the borrower has begun regular, full-time employment, provided that the first such payment shall not be later than the 24th month after the date of the loan.

Any unobligated amounts from general funds which are in the revolving fund at the termination of this chapter, or which are repaid subsequent thereto, shall revert to the General Fund.

The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules necessary for the administering of this paragraph.

4. Referral services. Referrals should include, but not be limited to, programs in the areas of health care, financial management, legal services, educational opportunities and information relating to government services such as social security, veterans benefits, welfare, food stamps and unemployment insurance. Educational referrals shall include information about courses offering credit through secondary or post-secondary education programs, including bilingual programming where appropriate.

§ 1607. Evaluation of the multipurpose service program

1. Staff evaluation. The Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council shall require the staff of the sponsoring group to evaluate the effectiveness of the various services. This evaluation shall include the number of persons trained, the number of persons placed in employment, follow-up data on these persons, the number of persons served by the referral program and the cost effectiveness of the various components of the program.

2. Schedule of evaluations. There shall be a 6-month and 12-month evaluation presented to the council by the staff of the group sponsoring the program. A final evaluation of the 2-year project shall be made by the staff, approved by the council and submitted to the Legislature by the terminating date of the pilot program.

§ 1608. Duration of multipurpose service program

The Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council shall implement the multipurpose service program by February 1, 1978.

§ 1609. Legislative review

This chapter is subject to repeal under Title 1, section 2501. The legislative committee having jurisdiction over the review provided for in Title 1, section 2502 shall be the Joint Standing Committee on State Government.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Manpower Affairs the sum of \$15,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. Of such sum, not less than the following amounts shall

be used only for the principal of loans made pursuant to Title 26, section 1606, subsection 3, paragraph D: For 1977-78, \$5,000. Amounts for the principal of loans shall not lapse, except as provided in Title 26, section 1606, subsection 3, paragraph D. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78
MANPOWER AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF	
Displaced Homemakers Program	
Personal Services	\$10,000
All Other	5,000
	\$15,000

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 548

AN ACT Creating the Maine Development Foundation.

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 107 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 107

MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

§ 915. Legislative findings and intent

The State of Maine has long had serious conditions of unemployment, underemployment, low per capital income and resource underutilization which cause substantial hardships to many individuals and families, impede the economic and physical development of various regions of the State, and adversely affect the general welfare and prosperity of the State.

There is a need to establish a new basis for a creative partnership of the private and public sectors for economic development, a partnership which can capitalize on the interests, resources and efforts of each sector, but which does not compromise the public interest or the profit motive. The state's solitary burden to provide for development should lessen through involving the private sector in a leadership role.

§ 916. Establishment