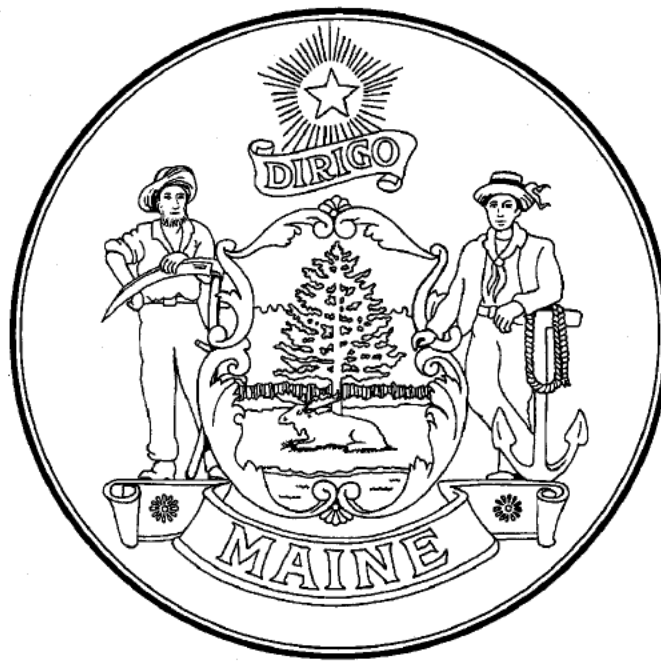


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

Inter-Departmental Memorandum Date March 8, 1976

To File - Maine Committee on Aging

Dept. _____

From S. Kirk Studstrup, Assistant

Dept. Attorney General

Subject Analysis of Funding and Staffing Provisions

I met this morning with Representative Kathleen Goodwin and Tricia Riley, Staff Director of the Maine Committee on Aging. The meeting was intended to give me a better idea of the funding and staffing provisions of the Committee in order to better advise them on the legality of their actions. The information I received is as follows:

I. Sources of Funding.

A. From the State - in accordance with P.L. 1973, Chapter 630, the Bureau of Maine's Elderly was appropriated \$125,000 each for the years 1973-74 and 1974-75. Included in these funds was \$50,000 for "transportation services and funds for the work of the Committee on Aging." The entire \$50,000 was transferred by the Bureau to the Western Older Citizens Council, a nonprofit private organization headquartered in Wilton, Maine, for its administration on behalf of the Committee on Aging. The Committee signed a contract with the Western Older Citizens Council, however, the Committee never directly received the State appropriated funds from the Bureau. There was apparently never any documentation of this transfer of money from the Bureau to the Council other than the contract between the Committee and the Council. Western Older Citizens Council (WOCC) has deposited these funds and retains the interest accumulating thereon as a charge for its administration services. WOCC also maintains the financial ledgers and books for the Committee.

B. Federal Funds -

1. The Bureau of Maine's Elderly has received a block grant from the Federal Government pursuant to Title 3 of the Older Americans Act. The Bureau has discretion as to the allocation of these funds within the appropriate guidelines. Part of this block grant has been allocated to WOCC in the following amounts: 1973-74 \$43,000; 1974 \$53,000; 1975 \$50,000. Of these funds part has paid for the planning and administration of WOCC and part has been used by WOCC for staff, etc. for the Committee on Aging (in 1974 this amount was approximately \$33,500).

2. In 1975 \$18,000 in federal funds were granted to the Bureau for an Ombudsman Project which expires in June of 1976. The project was designed and is administered by the Committee on the basis of its general authority to act as an advocate for the elderly and enter into nursing homes in response to complaints. However, the grant funds were channelled by the bureau into WOCC and it is this group which actually holds the funds to finance this project.

II. Expenditures

A. Bureau of Maine's Elderly - The Bureau supplies to the Committee on Aging, without any formal agreement or contract, office space, telephone facilities, expenses of the Committee members (per diem, travel expense, food, lodging, etc.), conference expenses, and publications, such as newsletters. These day-to-day operational expenses are apparently not included in the \$50,000 which was appropriated to the Bureau for use in support of the Committee.

B. WOCC -

1. Day-to-day operational expenses which are not reimbursed by the Bureau of Maine's Elderly are reimbursed by WOCC pursuant to their contract with the Committee. The Committee sends its bills directly to the accountant for the Bureau and those which the Bureau does not pay are then forwarded to WOCC.

2. WOCC also pays the salaries of the Committee staff. This staff is not subject to the state personnel laws and the members are not state employees.

3. Members of the staff - the staff director, the research assistant, and a secretary - are paid from the \$50,000 which WOCC administers for the Committee. A fourth staff member - the Ombudsman - is funded from the \$18,000 federal grant for the Ombudsman project. A fifth staff member - a volunteer coordinator - is funded in part from the \$50,000 state appropriation and in part from the Ombudsman Fund. The sixth staff member is a project director for the project described immediately below. Funding for this position comes from the \$50,000 state allocation.

4. WOCC also provides funds for "Steps for Maine's Elderly." This research is being conducted by the University of Maine pursuant to a contract between the University and WOCC. Although WOCC is the contracting party, the Committee on Aging is named in the contract as the contract administrator. The contract calls for payments to the University of \$36,657, which has been taken from the \$50,000 of state funds which were allocated for the Committee and which have been held by the WOCC. However, additional funds have been added so that the entire contract project now is in the neighborhood of \$40,000.