

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EXECUTIVE ORDER
of the
Governor of Maine

May 18, 1967

By this Executive Order, I am creating an Interdepartmental Task Force on Data Processing.

In this age of numerous and complex government programs and with the growing use of computers, it is obvious to me that a Central Data System is needed in Maine. Such a system will serve very practical needs; needs which can be divided into three basic groups:

- A. Administration requirements; namely accounting, budgeting and control.
- B. Records management, inventory and storage.
- C. Strategic uses; namely planning, long-range projections, and as the basis for major re-direction of state efforts as a whole.

These three areas of need are different, yet the data compiled for each need should be interchangeable for use in facing problems in the other area of need.

Several discussions have been held, both in my office and among department heads, on the data processing needs and how to go about achieving a central data system. The degree of cross-flow of data required, the agencies that might make maximum use of any system and the steps the state might follow have been thoroughly discussed. As a result of these discussions, I am prepared to ask all departments and agencies of state government to work toward establishment of a Central Data Processing System. In addition, the steps listed below are to be taken:

1. The following departments shall proceed individually and as a Task Force with the process of adopting electronic data processing methods compatible in so far as possible with the basic concept of a central processing facility:

Executive Council
Executive Department
Employment Security
Education
Economic Development
Forestry
Inland Fisheries and Game
Sea and Shore Fisheries
Health and Welfare
Mental Health and Corrections
Highway
Labor and Industry
Controller
Park and Recreation
Secretary of State
Taxation
Archives
Economic Planning
University of Maine

Executive Council
file

Dr. Fisher, Commissioner of Health and Welfare is designated as Chairman of this Task Force. He shall be assisted by a steering committee composed of the Chairman of MESAC, Chairman of the Department of Education, and Chairman of the Highway Commission (or their representatives).

The Project Director, who will serve as secretary for the Task Force and aide to the Chairman in pursuing the project, will be the Controller, Henry Cranshaw.

2. The Task Force will investigate the needs for programs related to central data processing and recommend means of implementing these programs. In particular, the Task Force will be concerned with Records Management, Planning and Economic Analysis.

Two assistant project directors will assist the Project Director in these areas of concern. The State Archivist, Samuel Silsby, will serve as assistant for records management, and the State Planner or Economist will serve for the second need.

3. The Project Director (the Controller), with his funds, or the members of the task force, through a dividing up of the cost by the members, is authorized to employ a highly skilled consultant (or consultants) to work with each department represented on the task force to develop a sound, but general outline of the steps each department might take, the time that might be involved, and the manpower and costs that may be involved in bringing said department to the point where it could make significant use of a central system.

4. An interim report covering the work of the task force will be submitted to the Governor three months from the date of this Executive Order. The report shall include a tentative plan by which each department proposes to move toward implementation of a central data system. Both administrative and strategic uses shall be covered.

5. In considering the strategic uses of a central data system, the task force shall be assisted by the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors.

In conclusion, I wish to express my strong interest in the State of Maine developing an adequate centralized data processing system. This should be done in so far as possible with the resources now or foreseeably available, and with recognition of the steps that various departments have already taken. Additional support or assistance may be possible from the Governor and Council if necessary. After these steps are taken and a development plan prepared, an approach can be made to the 104th Legislature for the additional support that may be needed to complete the system for its continued and long-range operation at maximum levels of productivity.

By Order of the Governor