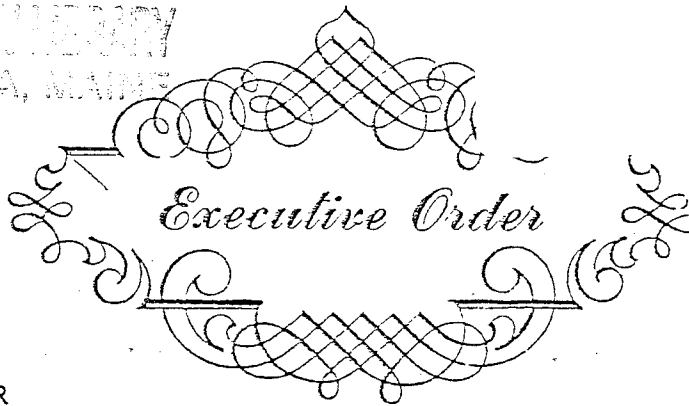


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 4FY 80/81
DATE October 6, 1980

MAINE CONSUMER COORDINATING COUNCIL

WHEREAS, it is a policy of this Administration to assist Maine consumers in making informed choices in the marketplace and to protect their rights under the law; and

WHEREAS, a number of agencies within state government have been created for the purpose of protecting the consumer interest, in whole or in part, and many others have assumed some consumer service functions; and

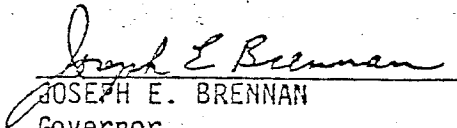
WHEREAS, these agencies are involved in consumer education and outreach activities and consumer complaint mediation operations which might be of greater service to consumers if coordination, cooperation and consultation among these agencies took place; and

WHEREAS, certain non-governmental and federal agencies also have been created to serve Maine consumers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order and direct:

1. That a Maine Consumer Coordinating Council is established for the purpose of providing for increased coordination of activities relating to consumer education and outreach and to complaint mediation, wherever possible.
2. In the field of consumer education and outreach, the activities of the Maine Consumer Coordinating Council shall include, but not be limited to: establishing an inventory of existing consumer outreach materials, identifying areas of unfilled consumer outreach needs, to coordinate all publications that may cross over jurisdictional lines and, so far as possible, to ensure that available funds for consumer education be used in the most efficient way. In addition, the Council shall assist in coordinating efforts to develop curriculum materials for use in the schools.
3. In the area of complaint mediation systems, the Council shall provide a clearinghouse for an exchange of information on current operations, shall assist in improving the referral of complaints among state and private agencies and shall consider the development of a directory of state and private consumer services.

4. That the Commissioner of Business Regulation shall contact the Attorney General and representatives of non-governmental and federal consumer-oriented agencies to invite them to participate fully in the work of the Maine Consumer Coordinating Council.
5. That the Maine Consumer Coordinating Council shall consist of:
 - (1) The Commissioner of Business Regulation or his designee.
 - (2) The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture or his designee.
 - (3) The Commissioner of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services or his designee.
 - (4) The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services or his designee.
 - (5) The Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission or his designee.
 - (6) The Director of the Division of Community Services or his designee.
 - (7) The Director of the Office of Energy Resources or his designee.
 - (8) The Director of the Maine Housing Authority or her designee.
 - (9) The Superintendent of Consumer Protection or her designee.
 - (10) The Executive Director of the Commission on Women.
 - (11) Representatives of agencies participating in accordance with paragraph 4, as designated by the chairperson.
6. The Chairperson of the Maine Consumer Coordinating Council shall be the Commissioner of Business Regulation or the person he may designate.
7. The Council shall submit annually by August 1 a report to the Governor on its activities for the preceeding fiscal year.


JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor