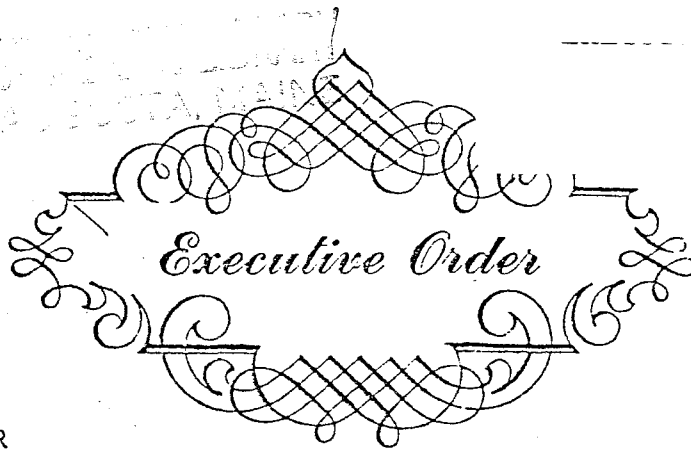


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 4FY 81/82  
DATE September 21, 1981

MAKING PUBLIC MEETINGS ACCESSIBLE TO THE DISABLED

WHEREAS, thousands of our citizens experience daily some physical limitations that restrict their mobility and activities; and

WHEREAS, the services and talents of all citizens form a necessary segment of our growth potential; and

WHEREAS, barrier-free designs are mandated by State and Federal laws in all new public buildings; and

WHEREAS, our Maine laws, initiated by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in 1967, are intended to implement the concept of physical accessibility in all public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is sensitive to the many advantages of a barrier-free environment that would permit our handicapped citizens to more fully participate in all public affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order and direct all state agencies in the Executive Branch of government to implement the following measures to encourage participation of our handicapped citizens in public meetings:

1. No meeting requiring a public notice conducted under the auspices of any State Board, Commission, Department or Agency within the Executive Branch shall be held in a location that is not accessible, in a manner consistent with the accessibility standards contained in 25 MRSa §2702, unless compelling reasons dictate otherwise.
2. Notice of meetings covered by this Order shall advise persons with disabilities to promptly inform those responsible for conducting the meeting of their anticipated attendance and the nature of their disabilities.
3. Upon seven (7) days notice of the anticipated attendance of a disabled individual, those responsible for conducting the public meeting shall provide for qualified interpreter services for the hearing impaired and provide essential materials in a form usable for the visually impaired as the need may require.

4. State agencies shall make their barrier-free facilities available to other State agencies to fulfill the purposes of this Order.
5. Complaints of violation of this Order shall be made in writing to the Chairman, Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. The Chairman shall investigate all complaints and make recommendations to the Governor.

  
JOSEPH E. BRENNAN  
Governor