

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

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AUGUSTA, MAINE
NO. 4FY 85/86
DATE September 19, 1985

OFFICE OF THE STATE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, as part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (Public Law 93-112), as amended, Congress enacted Section 504, which provides that no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has taken the initiative to enact progressive laws for the protection of the rights of the disabled; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has specific obligations to the handicapped under both Federal and State laws; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine recognizes that all of its citizens have the right to fully participate in leading productive and active lives without regard to their handicaps; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine intends to take further significant steps to assure implementation of the rights of the handicapped; and

WHEREAS, our State government bears a unique responsibility in demonstrating to all people the goals and values of our common life; and

WHEREAS, the removal of all barriers to equal opportunity for all of our State's citizens requires the concentrated and continued attention of our state administration; and

WHEREAS, equal opportunity is a matter for which the State as a major employer has a distinct responsibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, under the power vested in me and in pursuit of the goal of providing equal opportunity to the handicapped according to Federal laws and the laws of the State of Maine, do hereby authorize the Office of the State Handicapped Accessibility Coordinator, to be called the 504 Coordinator, to direct, coordinate, provide training to, monitor, and review State agencies and their subcontractors and grantees in their responsibilities to comply with State and Federal laws which ensure the right of handicapped persons to participate in publicly funded programs.

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All Sec. 504 compliance plans, programs, and activities, whether new or revised, shall be subject to the review, comment and recommendations of the State Handicapped Accessibility Coordinator.

The following have responsibilities in carrying out the intent of this Executive Order; their obligations include, but are not limited to, those listed hereinafter:

1. Responsibilities of the State Handicapped Accessibility Coordinator are as follows:

- (a) to provide training to the department and agency 504 coordinators assigned to assure compliance by each department and agency with the provisions of Sec. 504 and related laws;
- (b) to review and comment on proposed compliance plans and proposed modifications to those plans of the departments and other agencies of the State;
- (c) to make recommendations to the department and agency heads on such plans and modifications;
- (d) to monitor department and agency implementation of such plans and modifications;
- (e) to provide reports to the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation as to what the departments and agencies have accomplished in meeting the objectives of their plans not less frequently than quarterly;
- (f) to provide technical assistance to the departments and agencies in collaboration with the 504 Coordinator of each;
- (g) to provide technical assistance to entities outside state government including but not limited to municipalities, schools, libraries and businesses; and
- (h) to work with the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped to achieve mutual goals of handicapped accessibility and awareness.

2. Responsibilities of department and agency 504 coordinators are as follows:

- (a) to cooperate with the office of the State Handicapped Accessibility Coordinator in the performance of its responsibilities pursuant to this Executive Order; and
- (b) to develop, when necessary, update, and maintain plans for handicapped accessibility to the programs and facilities of the department or agency to which they are assigned.

3. Responsibilities of department and agency heads are as follows:
 - (a) to designate 504 Coordinators; and
 - (b) to review and approve 504 plans and modifications of plans developed by the department or agency coordinator and to see to the implementation of such plans and modifications.

4. Responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Public Improvements are as follows:
 - (a) to administer and enforce 25 MRSA, Chapter 331 (including Sec. 2703-Sub Sec. 1), which provides for handicapped accessibility in public buildings where State funds are used, including for space in buildings rented or leased by the State pursuant to agreements concluded with effective dates of January 1, 1982, or later; except in respect to elementary and secondary school buildings, it shall be the Commissioner of Education and Cultural Services.

5. Responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation are as follows:
 - (a) to review reports from the State 504 Coordinator regarding departmental and agency compliance plans;
 - (b) to make recommendations, as necessary, to the department and agency heads via the State 504 Coordinator concerning the plans and modifications to those plans; and
 - (c) to provide reports to the Commissioner of Human Services as to what the departments and agencies have accomplished in meeting the objectives of their plans not less frequently than semi-annually.

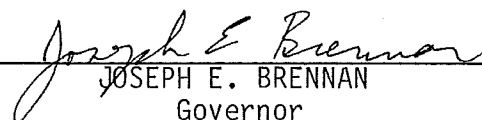
6. Responsibilities of the Commissioner of Human Services are as follows:
 - (a) to review reports from the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation regarding department and agency compliance plans;
 - (b) to make recommendations, as necessary, to the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation concerning the plans; and
 - (c) to provide reports to the Governor as to what the departments and agencies have accomplished in meeting the objectives of their plans not less frequently than annually.

7. Responsibilities of the Governor are as follows:

- (a) to name, from time to time, designees to represent him in carrying out the Executive responsibility under this Order;
- (b) to review the reports from the Commissioner of Human Services regarding 504 compliance;
- (c) to analyze the progress of the departments and agencies; and
- (d) to direct the departments and agencies to take additional action as may be appropriate to fulfill the objectives of this Order.

Executive Order 9FY81/82 is hereby rescinded.

Copies of this Executive Order shall be distributed to all State departments and agencies and shall be displayed in at least one prominent location in each department and agency.



JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor