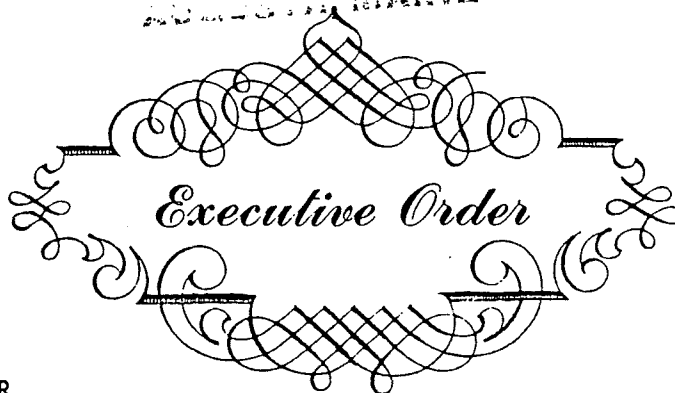


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE May 13, 1986

CABINET COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, the Maine Task Force on Homelessness has determined that 250 or more Maine people are homeless on any given day in Maine; and that the majority of those who are homeless suffer from mental illness or substance abuse, or severe economic distress, all of which may require State or local assistance in the form of better coordinated social services;

WHEREAS, homelessness makes it impossible for hundreds of individuals and households to be independent and to participate in their communities;

WHEREAS, State government has a role to play in responding to this problem and is currently assisting many Maine citizens suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, and economic distress;

WHEREAS, there is a need for improved social services and delivery of services to the homeless and those at risk of homelessness;

WHEREAS, an Interdepartmental Cabinet Committee exists to address certain social service issues at the State level;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, Governor of the State of Maine direct the Interdepartmental Committee to immediately begin a review of the findings of the February 1986 report of the Task Force on Homelessness in Maine pertaining to support services, and to determine how the State can improve the availability and the delivery of social services to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. Particular attention should be given to the recommendation of establishing a unified information and referral system.

The Committee in its efforts to address the Executive Order shall consult with local providers of services to the homeless or those at risk and examine ways to maintain ongoing communication and consultation with this provider network.


Membership

The membership of the Interdepartmental Committee shall consist of the following six members:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services
2. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation
3. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor
4. The Commissioner of the Department of Educational & Cultural Services
5. The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections
6. The Director of the Division of Community Services
7. The Director of the Maine State Housing Authority

For purposes of responding to this Executive Order, the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services shall serve as Chair.

The Interdepartmental Committee shall report to the Governor its findings by September 1986. This report shall contain a review of the existing allocation of financial and personnel services, and recommendations for appropriate Executive and Legislative action to address the need for coordinated services.


JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor