

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 435

H. P. 224

House of Representatives, January 18, 1961.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Schulten of Woolwich.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

AN ACT Providing for Construction of an Educational Television Network for the State of Maine.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows :

Sec. 1. State-wide educational television network, construction of. The University of Maine is authorized to construct and equip transmission and micro-wave interconnection facilities in Augusta which, interconnected with the educational television facilities of Bates, Bowdoin and Colby Colleges, will provide a state-wide educational television network.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$1,039,028 to the University of Maine to carry out the purposes of this act. Such appropriation shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account until the purposes of this act shall have been accomplished.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. A survey conducted by the University of Maine in 1960 through a grant of \$20,500 from the Ford Foundation determined that a state-wide educational television network for Maine is both feasible and desirable.
2. By linking Channel 12, Orono, with Channel 7, Calais, and Channel 10, Presque Isle, and interconnecting these stations with Channel 10, Augusta, now under license to Bates College, an educational television network can be established to provide coverage to 98% of Maine's population and schools.

3. A state-wide educational television network is the most feasible and economical method of upgrading Maine schools and education at all levels through supplementary, enriched programs directed to the school rooms of the State. This activity will be further enhanced by affiliation with the eastern educational (television) network.
4. The construction costs of Channel 10, Augusta, with its interconnections with Channel 11, University of New Hampshire, and with the Eastern Educational Network are being provided by Bates, Bowdoin and Colby Colleges. Construction costs for the network north of Augusta, through state appropriation, are:

Transmitters

Orono	\$363,410.00
Calais	264,133.95
Presque Isle	254,133.95
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	\$881,677.90

Interconnections

Augusta-Orono (2 way)	\$ 64,150.00
Orono-Presque Isle	64,500.00
Orono-Calais	2,000.00
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	\$130,650.00

Translators

Two (UHF)	\$26,700.00
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Total Capital Costs: \$1,039,027.90

5. Costs of Channel 12, Orono, studio and equipment are contained in the University of Maine's appropriation request for an engineering building. Operations costs in amount of \$100,000 for the biennium are included in the University of Maine's appropriation request for operations. An additional amount for operations is being requested by the State Department of Education.
6. The cooperating support of the national educational radio and television center in providing television receivers and antennae for local public schools, as well as video tape recorders for Channels 10 and 12 is anticipated.
7. The establishment of an educational television network, designed to upgrade education at all levels in Maine, has the support of many of the State's educational, industrial and civic leaders.