

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 737**

H. P. 520

House of Representatives, January 29, 1963

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Providing Matching Funds for Development of Comprehensive  
Regional Development Plans.**

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

**Appropriation for development of regional development plans.** There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$40,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964 and \$20,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965, to provide state matching grant aid to organized planning regions in the development of comprehensive development plans. Such funds shall be added to the Department of Economic Development urban planning account and used only in assisting in regional planning programs with federal and local or county participating funds.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Department of Economic Development is charged by statute to: “. . . initiate, encourage and assist local planning boards and other municipal agencies and officials in regional planning. . .” (1955, c. 471, § 1; 1959, c. 359, § 2.)

There are currently four organized planning regions: Greater Portland, Knox County, York County and Androscoggin Valley which are in the process of preparing comprehensive development plans using federal, state and local-county funds. These development plans will be a major contribution to effective economic and physical development programs in the respective areas.

The present state urban renewal fund which is used with local funds to match federal grants for local planning, is not large enough to extend into the regional planning area.

Effective economic development as well as the development of vital facilities such as highways, rail and air service, power and communications and in the effective utilization of manpower resources, educational institutions and finances need more and more a regional approach as has been demonstrated in the Greater Portland Region and in Knox County.

Regional comprehensive planning must be further accelerated in order to meet the requirements of the 1962 federal Highway Appropriation Act, which makes mandatory, after January 1, 1965, that all urban federal aid projects in compact areas of over 50,000 population, be in accord with a comprehensive development plan for the compact area.