

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1686

H. P. 1184

House of Representatives, May 31, 1967

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for Concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Brennan of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Establish the Division of Municipal Affairs in the Executive
Department.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Executive Department is continually in possession of information and gains special expertise in many federal and state programs of present or potential value to the counties, cities and towns of the State of Maine; and

Whereas, many of the several states have formed or are in the process of forming a specific office, agency, or person to be responsible for improving services to local government; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Division. There is established a Division of Municipal Affairs in the Executive Department.

Sec. 2. Legislative findings and declarations. The Legislature finds and declares that:

1. Strong local government has been a major factor in the political and economic development of the State;

2. The future welfare of the State depends, in large measure, on local leadership and the effectiveness of local government;

3. Population shifts and other economic and social trends have brought new problems to local government in growing metropolitan areas and throughout the State;

4. The State shares the responsibility for strengthening local government, encouraging local initiative, and providing coordination of state and federal services and information to assist local government in effectively meeting the needs of Maine citizens;

5. The full and effective use of the many grant programs of the Federal Government affecting community development necessitates full cooperation and coordination of existing state and local governmental agencies; and

6. It is the urgent responsibility of the State to assist communities in meeting these problems and whatever way possible including technical and financial assistance.

Sec. 3. Definition. As used in this Act, the term "local government" shall include all municipal corporations, quasi municipalities, counties, and local improvement and services districts of this State.

Sec. 4. Functions of the division.

1. Assist the Governor in coordinating the activities and services of those departments and agencies of the State having relationships with units of local government in order to provide more effective services to units of local government and to simplify procedures with respect thereto.

2. Advise the Governor and the Legislature of the problems of local government.

3. Serve as a clearing house, for the benefit of local government, of information relating to the common problems of local government and of state and federal services available to assist in the solution of those problems.

4. Refer local government to appropriate departments and agencies of the State and Federal Government for advice, assistance, and available services in connection with specific problems.

5. Request and assist in such research as is necessary to carry out the functions of the division, including the study of local government, intergovernmental relations, the structure and powers of local government units and their relationships to each other, local government finance, services, management, and functions, cooperating and coordinating activities with Bureau of Public Administration of the University of Maine.

6. Encourage and when so requested assist cooperative efforts among the officials of local government units toward the solution of common problems.

7. Encourage and cooperate in training institutes, conferences, and programs for local government officials and employees.

Sec. 5. Limitation of authority of division. Nothing contained in this Act shall give to the division any power of control or supervision over any unit of local government.

Sec. 6. Powers of the division. In order to perform the functions and duties of the division expressly set forth in this Act, the division, acting under the authority of the Governor, shall have the following powers:

1. To employ assistants and personnel as may be appropriate to the functions of the division.
2. To contract with the approval of the Governor for services and materials required by the division.
3. To receive and expend gifts, grants, and bequests, subject to approval of the Governor, and to expend state funds which are appropriated by the Legislature.
4. To contract with the Federal Government or any agency or instrumentality thereof and to receive any grants or moneys therefrom for purposes not inconsistent with the purposes set forth in this Act.
5. To exercise any other authority consistent with the purposes for which the division is created which is reasonably necessary for the fulfillment of assigned responsibilities.
6. To serve as a clearing house, for the benefit of local governments, of information concerning their common problems and concerning state and federal services available to assist in the solution of those problems.
7. When requested, to supply information, advice and assistance to governmental or civic groups which are studying problems of local government structure or financing for particular areas.
8. To consult and cooperate with other state agencies, with local governments and officials, and with federal agencies and officials, in carrying out the functions and duties of the office.

Sec. 7. Transfer of property; payment of expenses and salaries. On the effective date of this Act, all reports, files, supplies, and other property belonging to the Governor's Federal-State Coordinator shall be transferred to, and become the property of, the division.

Sec. 8. Appropriation. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Division of Municipal Affairs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968, the sum of \$24,350 and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969, the sum of \$24,400, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purposes set forth in this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

Department	1967-68	1968-69
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT		
Division of Municipal Affairs		
Personal Services	(2) \$18,000	(2) \$19,000
All Other	5,000	5,000
Capital	1,350	400
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Total	\$24,350	\$24,400

Sec. 9. Effective date. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1967.