

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1132

H. P. 836 House of Representatives, February 25, 1971
Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up
for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. White of Guilford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Providing Funds to Expand Homemaker Services in the
Department of Health and Welfare.**

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

Department of Health and Welfare; appropriation. There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare from the General Fund the sum of \$90,050 to provide for the expansion of its homemaker services. The break-down shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(28) \$33,000	(28) \$34,650
All Other	9,100	9,100
Capital Expenditures	4,200	—
	<hr/> \$46,300	<hr/> \$43,750

STATEMENT OF FACT

The 103rd and 104th Legislatures appropriated funds for and authorized the homemaker program. When increasing the personnel authorization by 14 positions from 5 to 19 for fiscal year 1970-71, the 104th appropriated a total of \$46,621 for personal services and travel expenses of 19 homemakers. The 104th Legislature did not authorize 13 other homemaker positions requested at that time.

The funds requested herein will generate federal funds of approximately \$138,900 for 1971-72 and \$131,250 for 1972-73. The National Council of Homemaker Services recommends one homemaker per 1,000 people of state population.

Homemakers go into families where there is a crisis situation—a sick mother with small children, old people who need some assistance, someone home from the hospital needing help—and tide the family over. They also help mothers become more capable by teaching budgeting, buying, keeping house, cooking and using nutritious foods. Their services in Maine have been well over 50% to the elderly.

At present the State Homemaker Staff consists only of 19 people who work with both groups and individuals. They are located in Portland, Auburn, Lewiston, Bangor, Rockland, Calais, Waterville and the state supervisor's office.

The homemaker service has proved highly successful not only in meeting personal crises, but also in providing a low cost alternative to prolonged hospitalization and expensive nursing-boarding home care. The service helps reduce the state costs of medicaid, allows elderly people to remain in their homes with qualified care, and allows families to continue living together on occasions of crisis when a parent is ill.

The report Steps for Maine's Elderly and the Blaine House Conference on Aging strongly urged the expansion of the homemaker program as proposed by this bill.