

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1284**

H. P. 930

House of Representatives, March 3, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Smith of Dover-Foxcroft.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Continue Regional Coordination of  
Services for Older People.**

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare from the General Fund the sum of \$41,953 to provide for continuation of its Services for Aging Program by establishing a system of regional coordinators of older people's activities, services and centers. The breakdown of expenditures shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(10) \$16,016	(10) \$16,817
All Other	3,750	3,750
Capital Expenditures	1,620	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$21,386	\$20,567

STATEMENT OF FACT

The funds requested will generate federal funds of approximately \$64,158 for 1971-72 and \$61,700 for 1972-73.

Since 1966 more than 80 senior citizen centers, which served 30,920 people in 1969-70, were established or expanded. This was achieved with the finan-

cial assistance of federal Older Americans Act grant funds provided by Services for Aging. The grant funds were awarded for a maximum of 3 years to local nonprofit groups and municipalities. They demonstrated the effectiveness of various ways of helping older people's groups and reaching the isolated-lonely with needed services. This lengthy experience shows the vital need for regional coordination of senior citizens programs, services and centers. Presently the State contributes no grant funds to this program and paid only \$8,430 in 1969-70,  $\frac{1}{4}$  the cost of state office administration.

Several factors now jeopardize the continued operation of regional coordination, especially via grants to communities. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to employ 10 regional coordinators who will (1) work with senior citizens and local agencies to bring the benefits of income, health, housing, community and social services to Maine's elderly people, especially the isolated and forgotten, and (2) will assist members of senior citizen centers with development of their programs.

The 1970 Blaine House Conference on Aging unanimously passed a resolution calling for paid regional coordinators. This proposal will permit meeting that resolution as well as recommendations 48 and 50 of the report Steps for Maine's Elderly.