

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1289

H. P. 935

House of Representatives, March 3, 1971

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Morrell of Brunswick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Advance the Level of
Dental Health in Maine.**

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

Sec. 1. Preventive Dentistry Conference. Dental disease being considered by many to be the most neglected health problem in the State of Maine, the shortage of dentists in the State being acute in many areas and maternal ignorance being the prime reason for the poor condition of children's teeth particularly those from low-income families, there is an urgent need for a Conference on Preventive Dentistry to evaluate current methods and agents used in the prevention of dental disease, to bring to the attention of the general public those preventive measures which the individual can utilize himself to protect his own dental health and to determine the best means of motivating the individual to employ these measures.

The Commissioner of Education acting jointly with the Commissioner of Health and Welfare shall call the conference within 6 months after the effective date of this Act.

Sec. 2. Conference participants. Participants should be nationally recognized authorities in the field of preventive dentistry.

Sec. 3. Practical guide for combating dental disease to be printed. A guide, simply written and directed toward the mothers of low-income families, should be the essence of the accumulated knowledge and experience of the conferees.

Sufficient copies should be printed so that the guide will be available for distribution to school children, organizations and individuals within the State of Maine concerned with advancing the level of dental health.

Sec. 4. Educational motion picture film. A motion picture film based on the findings of the conference should be produced and made available to television stations, schools and other organizations within the State of Maine concerned with dental health.

Sec. 5. Annual dental survey. An annual dental examination will be performed, unless there is parental objection, on all children in the first, 3rd and 6th years of school.

The purpose of the examination shall be to determine the effectiveness of the preventive dentistry educational program within the State of Maine and to identify those children who are in obvious need of dental treatment.

The examination may be performed by a physician, dentist, nurse, dental hygienist, dental assistant or teacher.

A standard form shall be used to notify parents if their child is in need of dental treatment, but, it should be made very clear that failure to receive a notification does not mean the child is totally free of dental disease.

Sec. 6. Responsibility. The responsibility for conducting the conference, printing of the guide, producing the educational film, disseminating the health information widely, conducting the annual dental survey and carrying out all other details pertaining to this Act shall be the joint responsibility of the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Health and Welfare.

Sec. 7. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$50,000 for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the first section.