

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1316

H. P. 955

House of Representatives, March 4, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Goodwin of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT to Provide the Elderly and Lower Income Residents
of Maine Prescription Drugs and Other Medical Services.**

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

Appropriation to the Department of Health and Welfare.

There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare from the General Fund the sum of \$1,969,000 to provide prescription drugs and certain other medical services to the elderly and lower income residents of the State. The breakdown of expenditures shall be as follows:

| | 1971-72 | 1972-73 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF | | |
| Personal Services | (18) \$ 88,000 | (20) \$ 100,000 |
| All Other | 585,000 | 1,170,000 |
| Capital Expenditures | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | \$686,000 | \$1,283,000 |

Expenditures of this appropriation shall provide 100% of the 500 most commonly prescribed drugs for as many eligible people as possible. This appropriation shall not be expended to provide in-patient hospital services, nor physicians' services, except those necessary to assist with the provision of skilled nursing home services.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The funds requested will generate federal funds of approximately \$1,539,100 in 1971-72 and \$2,837,000 in 1972-73 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

Presently Maine's elderly who are not on Old Age Assistance, as well as other lower income residents, are faced with severe income problems partially due to the high cost of drugs. Additionally other medical expenses for such items are out-patient care, home health care, and foot-dental-eye-ear care place a heavy drain on already limited incomes. Presently Medicare partially covers in-hospital expenses, physicians' fees, and some other medical service for most older people; but does not cover prescription drugs and most out-patient care. Medicaid provides broader coverage for the 13,000 elderly on Old Age Assistance and other lower income people on public assistance, but provides no coverage for 105,000 of Maine's older people.

It is the intent of this bill to provide medical assistance to people who are not on public assistance, and who are unable to meet the high cost of medical care. It is estimated that 54,000 older and low income residents of the State will receive benefits such as: prescription drugs, out-patient care, foot-dental-eye-ear care, laboratory and X-ray services, clinic services, home health care, and diagnostic screening and preventive care.

Passage of this bill will meet the 1970 Blaine House Conference on Aging resolution requesting relief from the costs of prescription drugs and accessory services such as eye, dental and foot care. Also passage of this bill will mean substantial action toward implementing recommendations 27, 28, 29, 32, and 33 of the report **Steps for Maine's Elderly**.