

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 250

S. P. 105

In Senate, January 18, 1973

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Purchase of Blind-made Products by State and
Political Subdivisions.

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

R. S., T. 5, §§ 1821-1824, additional. Title 5 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 4 new sections, 1821 to 1824, to read as follows:

§ 1821. Purpose

The purpose of sections 1821 to 1824 is to provide an expanded, more constant market for blind-made products and further the State of Maine's policy of encouraging and assisting handicapped citizens to achieve maximum personal independence by engaging in useful and productive activities. Resultant expanded employment opportunities would enhance the dignity of blind and visually handicapped workers, generate tax dollars from earnings and ultimately reduce the need for welfare dependency. It is further predicted that the program presented will help not only blind workers but will result in job opportunities needed by multiple handicapped blind persons who, unless provided with such employment opportunities, are in danger of becoming lifetime, nonproductive residents of state institutions and that the immense savings in costs of permanent institutionalization of such multiple handicapped blind persons will greatly exceed the costs of the program hereby established. Should new workshops for the blind develop in the future, sections 1821 to 1824, making Maine Institution for the Blind a clearing house for blind-made products, would ensure efficient flow of products to the State from any workshop.

§ 1822. Blind-made products

A Blind-made Products Committee, comprising the State Purchasing Agent, the Director of State Bureau of Rehabilitation and the Director of State Division of Eye Care, Bureau of Rehabilitation, and hereafter in sections 1822 to 1824 called "the committee," shall determine the price of all products which meet specifications prescribed by the State Purchasing Agent and agreeable to all members of the committee and which are manufactured by Maine Institution for the Blind and offered for sale to the State or any political subdivision, any governmental agency or public benefit corporation thereof; and shall revise such prices from time to time in accordance with changing cost factors and shall make such rules and regulations regarding selection of products, time of delivery and other relevant matters as shall be necessary to carry out the purpose of sections 1822 to 1824.

§ 1823. Price determination

Price determination shall be made to recover the manufacturing costs of labor, material, overhead and delivery, but without profit to the Maine Institution for the Blind.

§ 1824. Procurement by State or any political subdivisions thereof

Products manufactured by the blind and offered for sale by the Maine Institution for the Blind, meeting specifications prescribed by the State Purchasing Agent, which the State or any political subdivision, governmental agency or public benefit corporation thereof shall require for their purposes, shall be purchased, when and where possible, from the Maine Institution for the Blind, whenever such products are selected by the committee, and agreeable to Maine Institution for the Blind, and offered to such State or political subdivision, governmental agency or public benefit corporation thereof, at the agreed-upon price and according to the rules and regulations as made by the committee.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide that products manufactured by the blind shall be sold through Maine Institution for the Blind to the State and its political subdivisions.