

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 657

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H. P. 505

House of Representatives, February 6, 1973

Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Shaw of Chelsea.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Requiring Constructed Public Buildings Be Made Accessible to  
the Physically Handicapped.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 25, § 2701, sub-2, amended.** Subsection 2 of section 2701 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 367 of the public laws of 1967, is amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read as follows:

**Furthermore, it shall also mean a structure or facility constructed, in whole or in part, with either state or federal funds; and specifically intended as a place where persons will be employed or for public housing.**

**Sec. 2. R. S., T. 25, § 2702, sub-§ 4, amended.** Subsection 4 of section 2702 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 367 of the public laws of 1967, is amended to read as follows:

**4. Doors.** Doors at the primary entrance or entrances at grade level shall have a clear opening of no less than 32 inches when open and shall be operable by a single effort. The floor on the inside and outside of each doorway shall extend at least one foot beyond each side of the door and be level for a distance of at least 5 feet from the closed portion of the door in the direction the door swings. **If doors at a primary entrance are in a series they shall have a space between them of not less than 84 inches measured from their closed positions; and each shall open in the same direction so that swings do not conflict.** Thresholds shall have beveled edges;

**Sec. 3. R. S., T. 25, § 2702, sub-§ 8, repealed and replaced.** Subsection 8 of section 2702 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter

367 of the public laws of 1967, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

8. Rest rooms and bathrooms. In accordance with the nature of a building, an appropriate number of rest room facilities shall be accessible and usable by the physically handicapped. Furthermore, in any building designed and constructed specifically for public housing, the bathroom facility and all accompanying fixtures shall be arranged to permit access and use by a person in a wheelchair in at least 10% of the living units. Such units shall be constructed on a single level and entrance to the bathroom shall be no less than 30 inches in width.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 25, § 2703, sub-§ 4, amended. The first sentence of subsection 4 of section 2703 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

Plans to reconstruct, remodel or enlarge an existing building, when the estimated total cost exceeds ~~\$250,000~~ \$100,000, shall be subject to this chapter, when, in the opinion of the administrative authority, the proposed reconstruction, remodeling or enlargement will substantially affect that portion of said building normally accessible to the public.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 25, § 2703, sub-§ 5, additional. Section 2703 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 367 of the public laws of 1967, and as amended by chapter 98 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended by adding a new subsection 5 at the end to read as follows:

5. Conformity. The state, county or municipal authority charged with administering this chapter shall not approve any plan for constructing a public building that does not conform to this chapter.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the title.