

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 742

H. P. 563 House of Representatives, February 8, 1973
Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. LaPointe of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT Relating to Adult Community Education Activities of a
Recreational Nature.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 2404, amended. The first sentence of the first paragraph of section 2404 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

Whenever the school committee or school directors of any administrative unit shall have maintained during the school year evening schools, day schools, classes and educational activities **and recreational programs** for adults as provided by section 858, said administrative unit shall be reimbursed by the State a sum equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount paid for instruction and activities contributing to learning in such classes, except that said administrative unit shall be reimbursed by the State a sum equal to $\frac{3}{4}$ the amount paid for instruction for credit courses leading toward a high school diploma **and for recreational programs established in cooperation with local recreational agencies**, but the cost of instruction will be at rates not exceeding rates for other adult classes.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services the sum of \$150,000 to carry out the purpose of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Adult Education	\$75,000	\$75,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Existing Maine Statutes do not provide for the conduct of community education activities of a recreational nature. It is estimated that of the total State population, about one-half could be engaged in locally developed programs if they were available. There are 350,000 people in Maine now enrolled and benefitting from recreational programs provided at the local level.

Of the 247,000 elementary and secondary students in Maine schools only one-half have access to formally established recreation programs while only 25% of the state's shut-ins and disadvantaged have recreation programs available to them. Among the elderly population, in Maine of 141,000, fewer than 10% have access to such programs.

Most Maine communities with a population under 10,000 do not have organized recreation programs.

This bill would provide opportunities for communities to establish recreational programs in cooperation with the public schools for all age groups by supporting instruction in leisure time activities for shut-ins, youth, elderly, the disadvantaged and the general public. Such programs include theater and cultural arts, organized athletics, handicrafts, outdoor education and family activities, but most Maine communities are unable to support leisure experiences due to other priorities.

This bill will broaden and strengthen existing recreation-leisure opportunities in all Maine communities and will encourage and develop local recreation programs by generating local funding.

It is estimated that this request will serve 100,000 people at a cost of \$1.00 per participant and will allow for two community agencies to develop a partnership in the delivery of services to its citizens.

Proposed appropriation from local sources during the biennium

1973-74
\$25,000

1974-75
\$25,000