

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 858

H. P. 642

House of Representatives, February 13, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. White of Guilford.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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### AN ACT to Establish Information and Referral Service in the Department of Health and Welfare.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, §§ 48, 49 and 50, additional. Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 3 new sections, 48, 49 and 50 to read as follows:

#### § 48. Information and referral service

The department is authorized to administer a program of information about and referral to existing appropriate agencies to persons whose financial, medical, legal, social and other human needs are not being adequately met. Such information and referral service shall not be restricted to recipients of public assistance but shall be available to any persons needing the appropriate services available.

#### § 49. —duties

The department is authorized to:

1. Federal aid. Apply for federal aid under the Federal Social Security Act;

2. Cooperation with the Federal Government. Cooperate with the Federal Government in matters of mutual concern pertaining to information and referral services, including such methods of administration as are found to be necessary for the efficient operation of the plan for such services;

3. Reports. Make such reports in such form and containing such information as the Federal Government may require and comply with such provisions as the said Federal Government may find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports.

§ 50. Federal grants

The Treasurer of State shall be the appropriate fiscal officer of the State to receive federal grants on account of information and referral services and administration thereof, as contemplated by the Social Security Act and the State Controller shall authorize expenditures therefrom as approved by the department.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare from the General Fund the sum of \$286,425 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(13) \$113,500	(13) \$115,000
All Other	33,425	24,500
	<hr/> \$146,925	<hr/> \$139,500

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will permit the Department of Health and Welfare to develop a comprehensive state-wide information and referral service for the citizens of the State. The ever-increasing range of human service programs, their location, details of eligibility and the very fact of their existence often act as drawbacks to their fullest utilization by those who may need them.

This information and referral program which would be provided has as its objectives the coordinating of localized specialized information and referral programs, provide information about human services to those who need them and act as a "bridge" between the person requiring a service and the agency providing it.