

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1220

H. P. 922

House of Representatives, March 1, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. White of Guilford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Providing Funds to Expand Homemaker Services in the Department of Health and Welfare.

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

Department of Health and Welfare; appropriation. There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare from the General Fund the sum of \$95,030 to provide for the expansion of its Homemaker Home-Health Aide Services. It is the intention of the Legislature that funds and staff available as a result of this appropriation shall be administered in conjunction with private agencies in order to supervise homemakers or health aides and that it shall be administered in conjunction with and as a component of coordinated community programs to more effectively help older people. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Older American Activities		
Personal Services	(26) \$35,000	(20) \$37,150
All Other	9,440	9,440
Capital Expenditures	4,000	—
	<hr/> \$48,440	<hr/> \$46,590

STATEMENT OF FACT

The 105th Legislature appropriated funds for and authorized the homemaker program. When authorizing 20 personnel with an appropriation of

\$70,000, the Legislature did not authorize another 8 positions requested at that time.

Homemaker service has proved to be a highly successful, practical means by which help can be provided directly within the home and family setting—to assist aged individuals or families in maintaining themselves during periods of stress and in raising their level of independent living. Homemaker service provides a low-cost alternative to prolonged hospitalization and expensive nursing-boarding home care. The service helps reduce the state costs of medicaid, allows elderly people to remain in their homes with qualified care and allows families to continue living together on occasions of crises when a parent is ill.

Health Aides provide similar service to homemakers, but in addition, they provide health or personal care assistance in accordance with requirements of the medical profession and standards of nursing care, homemakers are restricted from offering personal care services. A health aide is qualified to do so. This bill proposes offering some health aide service to complement or act in place of the homemaker when certain types of health services are required.

The funds requested herein will also generate federal funds.

At present, the State Homemaker Staff consists of only 35 people who work with both groups and individuals. They are located in Cumberland, Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin, Kennebec, Somerset, Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, Sagadahoc, Hancock, Piscataquis, Penobscot, Washington and the state supervisors office.

The National Council of Homemaker Home-Health Aide Services studies indicate a need for one homemaker per 1,000 people in a state's population.