

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1822

H. P. 1366

House of Representatives, April 3, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rolde of York.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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AN ACT Appropriating Funds to the Several Counties for  
Social Service Programs.

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

**Sec. 1. Continuation of services.** An appropriation for necessary expenditures of county government, in order to provide for the continuation of social services now provided by community action agencies funded under Titles I-D, II, III-B of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended, is made in the following sum, or as much thereof as shall be found necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, and to be made out of any of the moneys in the General Fund not otherwise appropriated or provided by law. Upon receipt of allotments duly appropriated by the Governor and Council based upon work programs submitted to the State Budget Officer, the State Controller shall authorize expenditures for other purposes necessary to the conduct of State Government on the basis of such allotments and not otherwise.

**Sec. 2. Definitions.** As used in this Act, the following words and terms, unless the context requires otherwise, shall have the following meanings:

1. **Low-income persons.** "Low-income persons" mean persons meeting the guidelines established by the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity as of October 16, 1972.

2. **Social services.** "Social services" includes programs designed to alleviate problems of health, education, employment, housing, aging, nutrition, transportation and income maintenance.

**Sec. 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Executive Department the sum of \$500,000 to be allocated to the commis-

sioners of each of the State's counties in accordance with the formula below, to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

1973-74

#### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Economic Opportunity, Division of - 159  
All Other

\$500,000

Provides funds for the continuation of social services for low-income people in each county curtailed due to federal funding cutoff.

County commissioners receiving funds under this Act shall expend such moneys to operate programs for the delivering of social services to low-income persons or by contracting with public or private, nonprofit agencies for the delivery of such services. No funds allocated under this Act to the several counties may be used for capital expenditures.

Funds appropriated under this Act shall be allocated to the county commissioners by the Director of the Maine Division of Economic Opportunity in accordance with the following plan:

Eighty-five percent of the total funds appropriate under this Act shall be allocated to each county according to the number of low-income families residing in that county as a percentage of total low-income families residing in the State, according to the 1970 Federal Census.

Fifteen percent of the total funds appropriated under this Act shall be allocated equally to those counties having more than 75% of low-income families living in rural areas, as reported by the 1970 Federal Census.

The Director of the Maine Division of Economic Opportunity is authorized to establish rules and procedures to implement the intent of this legislation.

In the event the appropriation is not adequate, each grant shall be reduced by an equal proportion of the demonstrated need.

Any balances at June 30, 1974 shall carry forward until the purposes for which the appropriations are made shall be accomplished.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act provides for an allocation of funds to counties in order that they may continue social service programs through fiscal year 1974 for low-income persons, previously funded by federal grants through Community Action Agencies.

By order of the President, all funds for operation of the Community Action Agencies in Maine under the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity will be phased out beginning the federal 1973-74 fiscal year. Community Action Agencies in Maine will lose their federal funding at various dates depending upon their program years. The Division of Economic Opportunity of the Executive Department will be funded through the entire fiscal year, however.

Although they will be no longer federally funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity, Community Action Agencies will remain as independent, non-profit corporations capable of operating many of their former social service programs on a direct or contract basis. Many of these programs once contained within the Office of Economic Opportunity have been or will be transferred to other federal agencies and will continue. The purpose of this request then is to continue Community Action Agency type services in each county for a year.

Services which the Community Action Agencies have provided include the delivery of surplus food, the operation of preschool Head Start and manpower programs, the operation of programs designed for the elderly, the operation of programs funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act of 1935, as amended, various medical and dental programs and other outreach programs.

The formula for the allocation of funds to the counties is based on the number of poor families residing in each county, plus the extent to which poor families reside in rural areas with the added difficulty of service delivery to such areas.