

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 132

S. P. 51

In Senate, January 8, 1975

Referred to Committee on Human Resources. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Cummings of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Require that Newly Constructed or Reconstructed Public Buildings be made Accessible to the Physically Handicapped.

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA, § 2701, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 367, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

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. 25 MRSA, § 2702, sub-§ 4, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 367, is amended by adding after the 2nd sentence a new sentence to read:

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.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA, § 2702, sub-§ 8, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 367, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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 5% 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. 25 MRSA, § 2703, sub-§ 5 is enacted to read:

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

Citizens with physical limitations and elderly citizens experience, almost daily, the frustrations resulting from architectural barriers in many public buildings, offices and homes. The purpose of this bill is to further identify certain standards that are necessary in the construction of all new public buildings designed to be accessible to and usable by persons with some physical limitations.