

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 299

H. P. 246

House of Representatives, January 22, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Ault of Wayne.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

**AN ACT Establishing a Fee-for-Service System for the
Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Health and Welfare.**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA, § 562, last ¶, as enacted by PL 1971, c. 466, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The department shall charge the average costs for certain services rendered by the Diagnostic Laboratory. Costs shall be recalculated annually and imposed with the approval of the Governor and Council. All such fees collected shall be credited to the General Fund.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA, § 2431, as last amended by PL 1965, c. 207, § 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following new sentences:

Cost charges collected from this activity shall be credited to the General Fund. Any funds held currently in the Dedicated Revenue Account of the Department of Health and Welfare derived from purveyor water testing services shall be transferred to the General Fund.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA, § 2433, last sentence, is amended to read:

The department shall charge the average cost of the analysis for such examination to the municipality required to have such test made and the resultant fees shall be placed in the General Fund. Any funds held currently in the Dedicated Revenue Account of the Department of Health and Welfare derived from school water testing services shall be transferred to the General Fund.

Sec. 4. Transitional provision. Any funds held currently in the Dedicated Revenue Account in the Department of Health and Welfare derived from chemistry-toxicology testing services shall be transferred to the General Fund and the account destroyed.

Sec. 5. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$345,756 for the years 1975-1976 and 1976-1977 to provide for maintenance of laboratories for testing water supplies and for chemistry-toxicology testing. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Water Laboratory		
Personal Services	(3) \$20,245	(3) \$21,257
All Other	26,420	26,000
Capital Expenditures	5,650	—
	<hr/> \$52,315	<hr/> \$47,257
Chemistry-Toxicology Laboratory		
Personal Services	(7) \$79,046	(7) \$82,998
All Other	26,540	32,600
Capital Expenditures	15,000	10,000
	<hr/> \$120,586	<hr/> \$125,598
	<hr/> <hr/> \$172,901	<hr/> <hr/> \$172,855

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Maine Management and Cost Survey recommended that the Diagnostic Laboratory charge an average cost for each of its services and that all fees collected thereby be placed in the General Fund, Dedicated Revenue accounts be destroyed and any residual funds be transferred to the General Fund. The requested appropriation will replace funds lost by destruction of the Dedicated Revenue accounts. It is estimated that the charges will be approximately \$395,000 annually.

Certain services considered to be essential to the maintenance of the public health, such as those related to the diagnosis of tuberculosis and the venereal diseases, will continue to be provided free.