

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-440)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to H.P. 1186, L.D. 1477, Bill,  
"AN ACT to Provide for Review and Planning of Human Service  
Programs by Regional Planning Commission."

Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the  
enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'22 MRSA §5311 is enacted to read:

§5311. Regional human service review and planning

The bureau shall allocate from Title XX of the Federal  
Social Security Act \$90,000 each fiscal year for the purpose  
of providing grants to regional planning commissions for  
human service review and planning. The bureau shall, within  
the limits of this allocation, award human service review  
and planning grants to regional planning commissions if the  
commission provides the following:

1. Review and comment. A process for review and comment  
on request for funding directed to the State or political  
subdivisions within the regional planning and development  
district or subdistrict served by the commission;

2. Planning to encourage effective use. A planning  
process through which effective use of available resources  
for human services is encouraged;

3. Needs and priorities. The development of a periodic  
statement of human service needs and their relative priorities  
within the region;

4. Advisory council. The establishment by the commission of an advisory council to the commission which consists of not less than 9 members and shall be composed of residents of the region, of whom 1/3 shall be consumers of human services, 1/3 shall be providers of human services and 1/3 shall be members of the commission. The membership of the advisory council shall represent to the maximum extent possible different human service need categories. The advisory council shall actively participate in the human services review and comment and planning process and shall assist in developing the statement of human service needs priorities within the region;

5. Annual statement. The commission shall, after consultation with the advisory council, submit an annual statement of human service needs within the region to the Maine Human Services Council and the Maine Committee on Aging.

6. Certification of nonfederal matching funds. The commission shall submit with its application a certificate stating the amount of nonfederal funds available to the commission to match federal money allocated under this section.

"Regional planning commission" as used in this section means a commission established pursuant to Title 30, sections 4511 through 4516 and Councils of Government established

pursuant to Title 30, chapter 204. All funds granted under this section shall be to regional planning commissions. A regional planning commission eligible for planning grants under this section may apply through the bureau for federal funds to match nonstate money received by the commission for human service planning purposes.

A regional planning commission under this section shall not be awarded more than 3 consecutive grants to fund human service review and planning.

#### Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to improve decision-making at the municipal and regional level as it regards human services. Increasing demands are being placed on local revenues for the provision of human services. There is a lack of information and technical advice available to municipalities that must review these demands. As a result, municipalities frequently refuse requests for the funding of human services due to the absence of a more rational option. Regional planning commissions and councils of government have extensive authority to assist municipalities with this problem and to play the larger role of insuring the most effective use of resources available for human services. Their failure to fulfill this role relates directly to inadequate funding and the lack of a method whereby planners can come together with human service providers and consumers

to discuss the delivery of human services. This amendment would provide an opportunity to match funds under the Federal Social Security Act and it would establish a method for convening these interested groups.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Human Resources.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.  
5/22/75

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