

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1477

H. P. 1186

House of Representatives, March 25, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide for Review and Planning of Human Service Programs by Regional Planning Commission.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 5311 is enacted to read:

§ 5311. Regional human service review and planning

The bureau may within the limits of appropriations made for regional human service review and planning award planning grants to a regional planning commission for the purpose of developing a review and planning capability with respect to human service programs 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 $\frac{1}{3}$ shall be consumers of human services, $\frac{1}{3}$ shall be providers of human services and $\frac{1}{3}$ 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.

“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.

All funds available from the Federal Government to support all or part of the cost of human service review and planning by regional planning commissions shall be utilized to the maximum extent, within statutory constraints, prior to obligation of state funds.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare, Bureau of Human Services, the sum of \$80,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Human Services		
All Other	\$40,000	\$40,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act 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 bill would provide \$320,000 in matched funds under the Federal Social Security Act and it would establish a method for convening these interested groups.