

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
108TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-338)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 213, L.D. 223, Bill, "AN ACT to Strengthen the Counties' Role in Human Services."

Amend the bill in section 2 by striking out all of that part designated "§441." and inserting in its place the following:

'§441. Human services coordinator; appointment; compensation

The county commissioners of all counties may appropriate funds to hire a county human services coordinator or to contract with a Regional Planning Commission to provide the county with the services of a human services coordinator. If a coordinator is hired, the commissioners may appoint some suitable person to serve as co-ordinator or designate a county official to undertake the coordinator's duties. The human services coordinator shall serve at the pleasure of the county commiserions and they shall determine the compensation to be paid to an appointed coordinator.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 by striking out in that part designated "§442." all of subsection 6 and inserting in its place the following:

'6. Local assistance. He may assist municipalities in the county in solving local human services problems and provide technical aid and information on a regular basis.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "§442." by inserting after subsection 6 the following:

'7. Review of federal and state projects. He may provide information and comments on any applications relating to human services within the county that are being reviewed by a Regional Planning Commission under section 4522.'

8. Report. He shall keep the county commissioners informed about the use of county appropriations to private human services agencies, and shall annually prepare a report for inclusion in the county report, about county human service expenditures, direct or indirect human services and actual needs.'

Further amend the bill in section 3 by striking out all of those parts designated "§1401." "§1402." "§1403." and "§1404." and inserting in their places the following:

'§1401. Establishment

Each county may establish a County Human Services Board.

§1402. Membership; term and compensation

The County Human Services Board shall be composed of 7 members. The terms of the members shall begin on July 1st. Three members shall be appointed by the county commissioners for 2-year terms and shall be county officials. Four members shall be elected by the municipalities of the county in accordance with section 1403 for one-year terms and shall be municipal officers. No more than one municipal member shall come from any one municipality. The board shall elect its own chairman annually.

§1403. Municipal members; election

Each municipality within the county shall have one vote for each member in the election of municipal members to the board. This vote shall be cast in writing, signed by the chief municipal officer and shall be delivered or mailed to the county commissioners so as to reach them on or before June 1st. On the first Monday in June, the commissioners in a public meeting shall tabulate and announce the results of the election. The 4 municipal officers from different

municipalities receiving the highest number of votes shall become the municipal members. In the case of a tie vote for any member's seat, a run-off election between the candidates receiving equal votes shall be held in the same manner on the 2nd Monday in June.

§1404. Clerical assistance

The county commissioners may provide the clerical assistance, office expenses, suitable rooms and expenses as are necessary, just and proper to the performance of the board's official duties.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "§1405." subsection 1, by inserting after the first sentence, the following new sentence:

'As part of that system, the board shall establish procedures to encourage human service agencies to consult among themselves prior to presentation of budget requests.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment removes the human agency representatives from the county Human Services Board, decreases the board size from 9 to 7 members and establishes 3 county and 4 municipal members. The amendment also removes the requirement to form these boards in certain counties, making it permissive in all counties.

The duties of the Human Services Coordinator are slightly

expanded to encourage cooperation with regional planning commissions in reviewing state and federal program applications. The counties are also authorized to contract with regional planning commissions for the services of a coordinator.

The amendment also empowers the board to encourage consultation among human service agencies prior to the presentation of budget requests.

The amendment also requires human service agencies to consult among themselves prior to submitting budget requests.

Reported by the Committee on Local and County Government.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.  
5/17/77

(Filing No. H-338)