

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 695

H. P. 571

House of Representatives, March 2, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT** Establishing a Loan Fund for Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Squads.

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA § 77 is enacted to read:

§ 77. Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Squad Loan Fund

The Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Squad Loan Fund is established within the Department of Human Services as a nonlapsing, revolving loan fund for the purpose of providing loans to volunteer ambulance and rescue squads. The fund shall consist of any appropriations to the fund which the Legislature may make and all payments of principal and interest paid on any loans made pursuant to this section.

This fund shall be used to provide loans to licensed incorporated volunteer ambulance and rescue squads within the State for the purchase of equipment except vehicles by those squads or for tuition or the expense of training for members of the squads. Each loan made pursuant to this section shall carry a maximum 1% interest rate and shall be made for a period of not more than 3 years. No one ambulance or rescue squad shall receive or have outstanding any number of loans totaling more than \$1,500 at any one time. Each loan shall be made to a licensed incorporated volunteer ambulance or rescue squad and not to an individual member of the squad.

The advisory board shall approve all loans made pursuant to this section and shall promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section and, in cooperation with the Department of Human Services, shall administer this section.

Any and all expenses of the advisory board or the Department of Human Services related to this section, including administrative expenses, shall be charged to this fund.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$40,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Squad Loan Fund	
All Other	\$40,000

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Because many volunteer ambulance and rescue squads depend solely on fund drives and donations, it is often hard to raise enough money at one time to purchase necessary or required equipment. Also, the State or Federal Government may require certain equipment or training at a time when there is no money available, but would be after the annual fund drive. This fund would be available to these volunteer squads to purchase necessary equipment or provide required training immediately.