

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 714

H. P. 587

House of Representatives, March 3, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Drinkwater of Belfast.

Cosponsors: Mr. Tozier of Unity, Mr. Shute of Stockton Springs, Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT Appropriating Funds to the Department of Human Services for
Emergency Medical Training of Ambulance and Rescue Personnel.**

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

Department of Human Services; appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$100,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 1979, to provide for emergency medical training of ambulance and rescue personnel.

The sum of money shall be expended so as to enable ambulance and rescue personnel to enroll in emergency medical training programs and extrication programs recognized by the Department of Human Services and to finance the instructional costs of extrication courses.

Any unexpended balance shall not lapse but shall remain a continuous carrying account until June 30, 1979. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Emergency Medical Training		
All Other	\$20,000	\$20,000
Extrication Training		
All Other	30,000	30,000
Total	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services for emergency medical training of ambulance and rescue personnel. The lives of many people, estimated at between 15-20% of all accidental deaths as well as deaths from coronaries, might be saved if the emergency personnel treating them had had more advanced medical training. Most (65%) ambulance and rescue personnel in Maine are volunteers who, though recognizing the need for such training, find it economically difficult to attend such programs of instruction. The cost of such programs currently is \$75, which includes only tuition and text and does not include travel, time and effort, or meals. The funds would assist these individuals by providing reimbursement for the cost of the tuition.

There is a great demand and need for extrication programs within the State. It is estimated that many current highway fatalities could be prevented by proper treatment and the application of proper techniques. Extrication is a necessary and specialized program. There are no sources of funds presently available to support the instructional personnel who will present this program throughout the State of Maine. There is presently no student cost for this program.