

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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New Draft of: S. P. 140, L. D. 381
(New Title)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1585

S. P. 462

In Senate, April 14, 1977

Reported by Senator Katz of Kennebec from the Committee on Education,
and printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT in Support of Regional Library Systems.

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

Sec. 1. 27 MRSA § 119 is enacted to read:

§ 119. Distribution of appropriations

The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services is authorized to apportion funds appropriated by the Legislature for the support of regional library systems.

Sec. 2. PL 1973, c. 626, § 7 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

7. **Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services the sum of \$365,000 for each of the fiscal years 1977-78 and 1978-79 for the purpose of supporting regional library systems. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		

1. Direct state aid 25¢ per capita	\$145,000	\$145,000
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To be allotted upon the application of the local library unit by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission. The local unit shall provide evidence that a financial effort to support library services is being made at a level no

less than that of the previous year's budget. The local unit also shall provide evidence that efforts are being made toward meeting the minimum standards of the Maine Library Association. Eligibility for this direct state aid shall also include membership in a regional library district and agreement to honor the library cards of other members of the regional systems or a statewide library card, should such a card be issued. To the extent possible, additional state aid per capita shall be available to member libraries which provide free public library service to communities with no public libraries. When such communities with no public libraries receive public library service from 2 or more district libraries, such state aid per capita shall be divided equally among the libraries providing the service. A library unable to benefit from direct state aid per capita may become a member of a regional library district and be entitled to all other benefits thereof.

2. Regional reference and resource centers 100,000 100,000

These funds are to be allotted to designated area reference and resource centers by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission. This financial support is based on written plans and reports detailing the ways by which the area reference and resource centers intend to achieve such goals as direct free access to district residents, WATS service to member libraries, inter-library loan service, reference service and such other cooperative activities as member libraries may need.

3. Research centers 10,000 10,000

These funds are to be allotted by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, to designated research centers which act as back-up collections for the specialized interlibrary loan and reference needs of the area reference and resource centers.

4. Audio-visual services 40,000 40,000

These funds are to be allotted by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services, with the advice of the Maine Library Commission, for district or statewide audio-visual services. Applicants will be required to submit written plans detailing the ways by which audio-visual services can be improved or expanded.

5. State Library development 80,000 80,000

These funds are to be assigned to the State Library to assure such library development as: Consultant services to each library district; development and dissemination of public information concerning library services; support of cooperative library activities among district libraries; encouragement of continuing education for district library personnel; increased bookmobile service; and support of library services to the blind and physically handicapped.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is needed to support such regional library system activities as: Direct state aid to help local libraries improve service; a statewide library card, to be known as Mainecard; interlibrary loan and reference services provided by major resource libraries; back-up services provided by research libraries; 16mm film services; statewide library consultant services; statewide bookmobile services; large print and talking books for the blind and physically handicapped; and other cooperative library programs designed to promote equal access to total library resources for residents throughout Maine.