

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1707**

---

---

H. P. 1469

House of Representatives, April 25, 1977

On Motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick, referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Najarian of Portland.

Cosponsors: Mr. Spencer of Standish and Mr. Carroll of Limerick.

---

---

**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

---

**AN ACT to Create a Fund for the Development of Health Centers.**

---

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 181 is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 181**

**HEALTH CENTER DEVELOPMENT FUND**

§ 801. Legislative intent

It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the development of high quality, primary health services to meet the health needs of the citizens of Maine. It is further the intent of the Legislature to encourage community participation in the development of these health services.

§ 802. Health Center Development Fund

For the purposes of carrying out this chapter, there is created a Health Center Development Fund, which shall be used by the Commissioner of Human Services as a non-lapsing revolving fund.

The program of developing health centers shall be a continuing program. The commissioner shall include in his biennial budget an appropriate request adequate to fund the loan program.

Moneys in the fund, not needed currently to meet the obligations of the commissioner under this chapter, shall be deposited with the Treasurer of State to the credit of the fund.

### § 803. Eligibility for loans

An applicant shall be eligible for a loan under this chapter after he has demonstrated to the commissioner the following characteristics about the community and the health center for which an application for a loan is made.

1. Need for primary health care. There shall be a need for primary health care in the community in which the health center is or will be located. The applicant shall demonstrate this need with statistical information on community characteristics which demonstrate the accessibility of health care to the people.

2. Community support. There shall be community support for the health center. This community support shall include:

A. The existence of a strong representative body to represent the needs of the community; and

B. A broad base of support from various segments of the community, which shall include the donation of funds for the health center from at least 200 families.

3. Physician backup. There shall be a well-organized and documented plan for continuing physician backup for the health center staff.

4. Assistants. There shall be health care assistants, including at least certified physicians' assistants to work in the health center.

5. Management plan. There shall be an efficient plan for the management of the operation of the health center.

### § 804. Loans provided.

The commissioner shall, within the limits of the money in the funds, provide loans to eligible health centers, which shall be in the sum of not more than \$50,000 for one health center.

### § 805. Repayment of loans

Each applicant receiving a loan pursuant to this chapter shall repay the State for the total amount of the loan plus interest on each payment at the rate of 3% per year. Repayment of each loan shall begin 3 years after the receipt of the loan and shall be made according to the rules adopted pursuant to section 806.

### § 806. Rules

1. Rules promulgated; content. Within 90 days of the effective date of this Act, the commissioner shall promulgate and adopt rules for the effective implementation of this chapter. These rules shall include, but need not be limited to, rules pertaining to the determination of eligibility of health centers to receive loans, the amount of money to be received by health centers and the conditions for the repayment of loans.

2. Public hearing. The commissioner shall hold at least one public hearing prior to adopting these rules. Notice of any public hearing shall be pub-

lished at least once, within 14 to 30 days before the hearing, in the state paper and in other newspapers or journals of general circulation adequate to provide reasonable notice to the public affected thereby.

3. Rules amended or repealed. Rules may be amended or repealed at any time by the commissioner after like notice and hearing of the portions amended or repealed.

4. Rules for repayment. Rules relating to the repayment of loans shall not be adopted until they have been approved by the Commissioner of Finance and Administration.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$200,000 for the purposes set forth in this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Health Center Development Fund		
All Other	\$100,000	\$100,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to encourage the development of health centers which provide primary health care to Maine citizens. This purpose is to be accomplished through the creation of a revolving, nonlapsing fund administered by the Department of Human Services. Eligible centers will be able to apply for loans for up to \$50,000.