

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 278

H. P. 232

House of Representatives, February 2, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Appropriating Funds for the Maine Commission for Women.

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

**Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT		
Maine Commission for Women		
Personal Services	(2) \$27,267	(2) \$28,631
All Other	4,674	4,994
Total	\$31,941	\$33,625

STATEMENT OF FACT

Maine law mandates that the Maine Commission for Women shall: Conduct research to determine the status of Maine women; promote and coordinate activities designed to meet the problems of women; advocate and make recommendations on behalf of Maine women to the Governor, the Legislature and

other officials; provide information about the presence or absence of opportunities for Maine women; and obtain input from women all over the State on their needs and potential solutions to their problems.

The commission has steadfastly attempted to fulfill its legal responsibilities despite totally inadequate financial support by the State. Outstanding examples of its dedication and perseverance can be seen in the booklet entitled "The Legal Rights of Maine Women," the biannual program to assist women attain policy and decision-making positions entitled "Winning with Women," and the soon to be published "Handbook For and About Working Women in Maine" which provides concrete information about the status of Maine women.

In order to adequately perform the job given to it by the Legislature, the Maine Commission for Women must receive increased funding. Present financial support barely covers mailing and administrative expenses and does not allow for reimbursement to members for necessary expenses, as entitled to under law. The lack of reimbursement funds can limit geographic distribution and income levels of commission members and consequently hinder true representation of women throughout the State. To more efficiently utilize the commission's voluntary membership, funding for support staff to conduct and oversee commission day to day general operation is a must.

This bill seeks funding for an executive director and clerk typist to provide basic administrative assistance to the commission so its members may focus more directly on its legislatively imposed responsibilities.