

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 924

H. P. 737

House of Representatives, March 2, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Prescott of Hampden.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT Concerning the Coordination of Health Services Funded Through the  
State and Federal Funds.**

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

22 MRSA § 255 is enacted to read:

§ 255. **Coordination of health services funded through the state and federal funds**

1. **Findings and declaration of legislative intent.** The Legislature finds that the costs of health care and services provided by health care facilities are matters of vital concern to the people of this State and have a direct relationship to the ability of the people to obtain health care.

The Legislature further finds that the coordination of health services in a geographic area within an existing health facility, where practicable, increases both access and quantity of services provided and increases the likelihood costs of these services will be reasonable.

It is the intent of the Legislature to define a policy for the Department of Human Services in order that health service paid for by state and federal funds be coordinated by existing health facilities whenever possible.

**2. Coordination of health services. To assure equal access, to avoid the unnecessary duplication of administrative systems, of health services and of health care facilities, the Department of Human Services shall, to the extent practicable, contract for services funded or provided under the Social Security Act, Titles V, XIX and XX, as amended, the United States Public Health Services Act, Title III, section 314 D, as amended, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Special Supplemental Food Program of the United States Child Nutrition Act of 1966, or its successor, through an existing health facility.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The State of Maine has experienced a significant increase in the availability of health services to its population over the last 10 years through federal and state categorical health programs such as Medicaid, Title XX Training Programs, EPSDT, WIC, etc. This has sometimes resulted in separate services and separate facilities being located in relatively short distance from each other, each administering its own categorical health program. It has meant that consumers of health care who qualify for these programs can receive one type of service at one facility and another type at another facility. In other words, coordination of these services and facilities has been difficult to maintain. The purpose of the bill is to provide a policy statement for the Department of Human Services to increase coordination in the categorical health services its funds, through existing facilities both for the areas where their duplication presently exist and for development of future service in the areas where there are no facilities now.