

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1873

S. P. 724

In Senate, January 24, 1980

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Conley of Cumberland

Cosponsors: Senators Najarian of Cumberland, Gill of Cumberland and Usher of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Develop Elderly Congregate Housing in Maine.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1457-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1457-A

CONGREGATE HOUSING FOR MAINE'S ELDERLY

§ 5151. Policy

It is declared to be the policy of the State to make resources available to ensure maximum independence and dignity in a home environment for older people capable of self care with appropriate supportive services. It is the purpose of this chapter to develop a system to create and implement a funding mechanism for the supportive services component of congregate housing that provides a housing alternative to older people.

Such housing is greatly needed by those older people who experience difficulty in maintaining themselves in their own homes and apartments yet do not require or desire the level of support provided by care facilities. Congregate housing

makes available, as needed, meals, housekeeping and personal services, transportation and other services which provide assistance with the activities of daily living.

The project is intended to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of congregate housing when compared to nursing and boarding home care.

§ 5152. Definition of congregate housing

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "congregate housing" means a noninstitutional residential shared living environment which integrates shelter and service needs for the functionally impaired or socially isolated elderly who do not require the constant supervision or intensive health care of an institution. The shared living environment includes community space and dining facilities.

§ 5153. Administration of support services

The Bureau of Maine's Elderly, with the advice of the Maine Committee on Aging, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Farmers Home Administration, shall administer the support services component of 2 demonstration congregate housing projects in Maine, one urban and one rural. Administration shall include:

1. **Certification.** Certification of 2 appropriate congregate housing projects that will receive support services funding under this section;

2. **Allocation.** Allocation of up to \$80 for an individual resident or up to \$120 for each couple who are residents of the projects;

3. **Adoption of regulations.** Adoption of regulations by the Bureau of Maine's Elderly, with the advice of the area agencies on aging, the Maine Committee on Aging, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Farmers Home Administration, for the administration of the support services in the projects, including, without limitation, the method for selection of support service providers and standards for eligibility;

4. **Awarding of grants.** Awarding of grants during fiscal year 1981-1982 to eligible projects; and

5. **Payment mechanism.** Developing an appropriate vendor payment mechanism.

Sec. 2. Legislative review. The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services shall review the payment structure proposed by the Bureau of Maine's Elderly during the 110th Legislature. The committee shall make recommendations as it deems necessary to continue funding for congregate housing where housing shelter costs are funded by federal housing subsidy programs and the residents contribute 50% of the cost of support services.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1981

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Maine's Elderly

Congregate Housing Project

All Other

\$87,360

Provides funds for supportive services to 2 demonstration congregate housing projects for 2 years. Any balance of funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Congregate Housing Task Force established by the 1978 Blaine House Conference on Aging found that approximately 25,000 older people in Maine face a critical housing problem. As they become more frail, they are unable to maintain themselves at home without support services. Yet, they frequently do not need the expensive care offered at boarding or nursing homes.

This bill would appropriate funds to the Bureau of Maine's Elderly for 2 demonstration congregate housing projects to assist in addressing this need. One residence would be in a rural area, the other in a city. The appropriation would fund 1/2 the cost of support services, while the tenant would be responsible for the balance. These services include meals, transportation, housekeeping and personal services. The actual construction would be funded by the Farmers Home Administration and the Maine State Housing Authority.