

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)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 624

H. P. 548

House of Representatives, February 4, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Beaulieu of Portland.

Cosponsors: Senator Najarian of Cumberland, Senator Devoe of Penobscot and Representative Lund of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Authorizing Reasonable Fees for Nonresident Users of Public Libraries.

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

Sec. 1. 27 MRSA § 110, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 626, § 6, is amended to read:

2. Area reference and resource center. "Area reference and resource center" means a large public, school or academic library designated by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and the State Librarian and receiving state aid for the purpose of making its resources and services available ~~without charge~~ to all residents of the district, of providing supplementary library services to local libraries within the district, of coordinating the services of all local libraries within the district which by contract become part of the library district.

Sec. 2. 27 MRSA § 110, sub-§ 10, first sentence, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 626, § 6, is amended to read:

"Public library" means a library ~~freely~~ open to all persons and receives its financial support from a municipality, private association, corporation or group.

Sec. 3. 27 MRSA § 120 is enacted to read:

§ 120. Nonresident user fees

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or of chapter 3, any library supported in whole or in part by contributions from the municipality in which it is located may establish a reasonable fee for nonresidents of that municipality to use the library. Imposition of such a fee on nonresident users of the library does not affect the eligibility of the library for state funding. In the event that a municipality outside that in which the library is located makes an equitable contribution to the support of the library, the library may waive the nonresident fee for that municipality's residents.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit libraries to charge nonresidents of the municipalities in which the library is located fees for borrowing books. These fees could be charged with no loss in state funds. The bill also provides that the library may waive the fees for a particular municipality's residents, if that municipality makes a fair contribution to the library's support.