

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1236

6
7 H.P. 955

House of Representatives, March 17, 1983

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Brodeur of Auburn.

Cosponsors: Senator Najarian of Cumberland, Senator Gill of
11 Cumberland and Representative Kelleher of Bangor.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Require Interdepartmental
18 Coordination of Social Services Planning.
19

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

22 5 MRSA c. 148-A is enacted to read:

23 CHAPTER 148-A

24 SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNING AND EXPENDITURES

25 §1641. Intent

26 It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage
27 cooperation among state departments and to facilitate
28 and encourage public participation in social service
29 policy making by requiring the submission of a Maine
30 Social Services Plan to the joint standing committee
31 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropri-

1 ations and financial affairs and the joint standing
2 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
3 health and institutional services.

4 §1642. Definitions

5 As used in this chapter, unless the context indi-
6 cates otherwise, the following terms have the follow-
7 ing meanings.

8 1. Plan. "Plan" means the document embodying
9 the Maine Social Services Plan.

10 2. Social service. "Social service" means any
11 children's, youth, adult or elderly service, and
12 alcoholism, community action, developmental disabil-
13 ity, drug or substance abuse, home-heating assis-
14 tance, juvenile, mental health, mental retardation,
15 older Americans, poverty, rehabilitation, transporta-
16 tion or winterization service operated by a depart-
17 ment utilizing state-administered funds, except
18 income supplementation, health and medical services.

19 3. State-administered funds. "State-administered
20 funds" means any and all General Funds, dedicated
21 funds, federal funds, fees, grants, 3rd-party reim-
22 bursements, vendor payments or other funds or revenue
23 available for expenditure by a department in support
24 of the provision of a social service.

25 §1643. Maine Social Services Plan

26 1. Development of plan. The Maine Social Ser-
27 vices Plan shall be developed as follows.

28 A. The Department of Mental Health and Mental
29 Retardation, the Department of Human Services and
30 the Division of Community Services shall, during
31 June of even-numbered years, present to the joint
32 standing committee of the Legislature having
33 jurisdiction over appropriations and financial
34 affairs and the joint standing committee of the
35 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and
36 institutional services a report of their prelimi-
37 nary assessment of the need for social services,
38 including gaps in funding and delivery of current
39 programs. The committees shall hold one or more

1 public hearings on this report, and transmit
2 public comments to the departments and the divi-
3 sion.

4 B. The Department of Mental Health and Mental
5 Retardation, the Department of Human Services and
6 the Division of Community Services shall, during
7 August of even-numbered years, present to the
8 joint standing committee of the Legislature hav-
9 ing jurisdiction over appropriations and finan-
10 cial affairs and the joint standing committee of
11 the Legislature having jurisdiction over health
12 and institutional services a report of their pre-
13 liminary plans and priorities regarding social
14 services. This report shall incorporate changes
15 made since the June report. The committees shall
16 hold one or more public hearings on this report,
17 and transmit public comments to the departments
18 and the division.

19 2. Submission of plan. The Department of Mental
20 Health and Mental Retardation, the Department of
21 Human Services and the Division of Community Services
22 shall, by the 2nd Friday in December of even-numbered
23 years, submit to the joint standing committee of the
24 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations
25 and financial affairs and to the joint standing com-
26 mittee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
27 health and institutional services a plan. The plan
28 shall be an integrated statement of Maine social ser-
29 vice policy and expenditures of state-administered
30 funds for these social services. The plan shall also
31 have been made available to social services' agencies
32 and the public by October 1st of even-numbered years,
33 and to the Governor by October 15th of even-numbered
34 years.

35 3. Approval of plan. The joint standing commit-
36 tee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
37 appropriations and financial affairs shall prepare
38 its recommendations on the plan as part of its con-
39 sideration of the biennial budget of
40 state-administered funds.

41 The joint standing committee of the Legislature
42 having jurisdiction over health and institutional
43 services shall, during the first regular session of

1 each Legislature, hold a public hearing on the plan
2 and report its findings and recommendations, includ-
3 ing any necessary legislation, to the Legislature.

4 4. Interim report to the Legislature. In addi-
5 tion to the submission of the plan required under
6 subsection 2, the Department of Human Services, the
7 Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
8 and the Division of Community Services shall present
9 an interim report to the Legislature on February 1st
10 of even-numbered years. The interim report shall
11 contain only actual or proposed amendments to the
12 previously submitted plan.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 This bill requires interdepartmental coordination
15 to develop a plan in even-numbered years for the
16 funding and delivery of social services. It assures
17 legislative and public input into the plan by re-
18 quirements that the preliminary and final plans be
19 submitted to the joint standing committee of the
20 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations
21 and financial affairs and the joint standing commit-
22 tee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
23 health and institutional services, who are to hold
24 public hearings on them.

25 An interim report on the implementation of the
26 plan is to be submitted to the Legislature by Febru-
27 ary 1st of even-numbered years.

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