

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H.P. 955, L.D. 1236)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1668

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H.P. 1255

House of Representatives, May 23, 1983

Reported by Representative Seavey from the Committee on Health and Institutional Services and printed under Joint Rule 2.

Original bill presented by Representative Brodeur of Auburn.  
Cosponsored by Senator Najarian of Cumberland, Senator Gill of Cumberland and Representative Kelleher of Bangor.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to Require Interdepartmental  
Coordination of Social Services Planning.

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

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

CHAPTER 148-A

SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNING AND EXPENDITURES

§1641. Intent

It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage cooperation among state departments and to facilitate and encourage public participation in social service policy making by requiring the submission of a Maine Social Services Plan to the joint standing committee 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. Departments. "Departments" means the Depart-  
9 ment of Human Services, the Department of Mental  
10 Health and Mental Retardation and the Division of  
11 Community Services, and may mean such other adminis-  
12 trative units of State Government as are defined from  
13 time to time.

14 2. Plan. "Plan" means the document embodying  
15 the Maine Social Services Plan.

16 3. Social service. "Social service" means any  
17 children's, youth, adult or elderly service, and  
18 alcoholism, community action, developmental disabili-  
19 ty, drug or substance abuse, home-heating assis-  
20 tance, juvenile, mental health, mental retardation,  
21 older Americans, poverty, rehabilitation, transporta-  
22 tion or winterization service operated by a depart-  
23 ment utilizing state-administered funds, except  
24 income supplementation, health and medical services.

25 4. State-administered funds. "State-administered  
26 funds" means all General Funds, dedicated funds, fed-  
27 eral funds, fees, grants, 3rd-party reimbursements,  
28 vendor payments or other funds or revenue available  
29 for expenditure by a department in support of the  
30 provision of a social service.

31 §1643. Maine Social Services Plan

32 1. Development of plan. The Maine Social Ser-  
33 vices Plan shall be developed by the departments in  
34 accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement dated May  
35 25, 1983. Plan documents shall be published as  
36 specified in the agreement's timetable and in subsec-  
37 tion 2.

1           2. Discussion and submission of the proposed  
2 plan. Discussion and submission of the proposed plan  
3 shall be as follows.

4           A. For the purpose of informal discussions and  
5 not later than September 15th, the departments  
6 shall prepare a written outline of social service  
7 information, including anticipated federal fund-  
8 ing, anticipated current services (Part I) budget  
9 figures, policy matters, service priorities and  
10 their estimated cost and other program issues  
11 pertaining to operations. Copies of the outline  
12 shall be provided to the committees named in  
13 paragraph B and shall be widely distributed to  
14 the public and community social service agencies  
15 at least 10 calendar days prior to its presenta-  
16 tion as described in paragraph B.

17           B. Prior to September 25th, the joint standing  
18 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction  
19 over health and institutional services, in coop-  
20 eration with the joint standing committee having  
21 jurisdiction over appropriations and financial  
22 affairs, may conduct a workshop or workshops  
23 relating to the outline. If a workshop is con-  
24 ducted, each of the 3 state agencies, respec-  
25 tively for the services they administer, shall  
26 informally present the outline. The committees  
27 may transmit recommendations and a summary of  
28 comments regarding the plan to appropriate state  
29 agencies and to the public.

30           C. The proposed plan containing all recommenda-  
31 tions for the upcoming biennium shall be pre-  
32 sent to the Legislature in accordance with the  
33 timetable provided in Title 5, section 1666, and  
34 its successors. An updated plan shall be pre-  
35 sent to the Legislature at the Second Regular  
36 Session.

37           3. Comments on the proposed plan by the Legis-  
38 lature. Comments on the proposed plan shall be as  
39 follows.

40           A. The joint standing committee of the Legis-  
41 lature having jurisdiction over health and insti-  
42 tutional services shall, during each Legislature,

1 hold a public hearing or hearings on the proposed  
2 plan and report to the Legislature its findings,  
3 recommendations, legislation to authorize imple-  
4 mentation of the plan as proposed or amended and  
5 any other necessary legislation.

6 B. The joint standing committee of the Legis-  
7 lature having jurisdiction over appropriations  
8 and financial affairs shall prepare its recom-  
9 mendations on the proposed plan as part of its  
10 consideration of the biennial budget of  
11 state-administered funds and shall report any  
12 necessary legislation to the Legislature.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 This new draft retains the intent section and  
15 adds a definition of "departments."

16 The section on the Maine Social Services Plan is  
17 new, and refers to the plan which has been developed,  
18 and contains information in accordance with a Memo-  
19 randum of Agreement signed in May 1983. A prebudget  
20 outline is to be submitted to the committees by Sep-  
21 tember 15th of each year, and the committees may then  
22 hold public workshops for comments on the outline  
23 later that same month. The comments from the work-  
24 shops shall be included in the plan which the depart-  
25 ments present to the Legislature at the subsequent  
26 regular session.

27 Through the new draft and the agreement, the pro-  
28 cess is simplified and made more accessible to legis-  
29 lative and public input.

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