

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

(New Draft of S.P. 533, L.D. 1564)
(New Title)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1748

S.P. 613

In Senate, June 9, 1983

Reported by Senator Bustin of Kennebec from the Committee on Health and Institutional Service and printed under Joint Rule 2.

Original bill presented by Senator Bustin of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Senator Gill of Cumberland, Senator Hayes of Penobscot and Representative Davis of Monmouth.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

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

**RESOLVE, Authorizing the Streamlining
of Information Processing by Income
Supplementation and Social Service Programs.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, information relating to tens of thousands of Maine citizens who receive state administered income supplementation and social services is received and maintained in multiple paper and computer-based record systems; and

Whereas, those Maine citizens should be served in a manner that protects their right to privacy and confidential processing of client information; and

1 Whereas, the design and maintenance of client
2 record information systems requires continuous updat-
3 ing to utilize fast-changing computer technology
4 practically and reasonably in a cost-efficient man-
5 ner; and

6 Whereas, several state agencies are currently
7 pursuing proposals to design, redesign, acquire,
8 replace and otherwise improve computer-based hardware
9 and software; and

10 Whereas, access of clients to services is
11 affected by the coordinated administration of effec-
12 tive services; and

13 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
14 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
15 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
16 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
17 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 Streamlining of information processing by income
20 supplementation and social service programs; author-
21 ized. Resolved: That establishing and maintaining a
22 Maine Income Supplementation and Social Service
23 Information System may be desirable, and that a study
24 shall be completed of the feasibility of how best to
25 design and implement it as compatible, coordinated
26 subsystems in accordance with appropriate standards
27 for acquisition and operation of hardware and soft-
28 ware; and be it further

29 Resolved: Any state-administered funds author-
30 ized by the Legislature or otherwise available to the
31 Department of Human Services, the Department of
32 Mental Health and Mental Retardation or the Division
33 of Community Services to be expended for operation or
34 acquisition of any computer-based information system
35 shall be obligated only when the Director of Central
36 Computer Services shall certify that:

37 1. Operation of computer-based hardware or soft-
38 ware is in accordance with appropriate standards, and
39 is compatible with current or planned information
40 systems in terms of communication ability, including
41 exchange of data, and in terms of coordination of

1 data elements and program administration information
2 requirements; or

3 2. Design, redesign, acquisition, replacement or
4 other improvement of computer-based hardware or soft-
5 ware is in accordance with appropriate standards, and
6 is:

7 A. Beyond the capacity and response time of
8 existing hardware;

9 B. Beyond the scope of existing software;

10 C. Shown to be less costly than consolidating
11 with existing hardware, provided that cost is not
12 the sole criterion for making a decision; and

13 D. Compatible with current or planned informa-
14 tion systems in terms of communication ability,
15 including exchange of data, and in terms of coor-
16 dination of data elements and program administra-
17 tion information requirements; and be it further

18 **Resolved:** That the 4 state agencies specified in
19 this resolve shall study how to streamline computer-
20 based information processing by income supplementa-
21 tion and social service programs, including the
22 feasibility of improved communication, compatibility
23 and coordination of these systems. The study shall
24 utilize the interdepartmental method of coordinating
25 policy and program administration. Not later than
26 February 1, 1984, the state agencies shall issue a
27 status report on the progress of the study to date,
28 and not later than December 15, 1984, the state agen-
29 cies shall issue a full report of findings, including
30 any legislation deemed necessary, to the Executive
31 Branch and to the Legislature. Thereafter, comput-
32 er-based information processing shall be monitored by
33 the state agencies and reports issued to the Execu-
34 tive and Legislative Branches, as appropriate and
35 necessary.

36 A Joint Select Committee on Interagency Informa-
37 tion Processing shall advise the Executive and Legis-
38 lative Branches of State Government on the subject
39 matter of this resolve with the cooperation of the 4
40 state agencies. The committee shall consist of 7

1 members, including 2 members who are Legislators,
2 appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and
3 the Speaker of the House; 3 members, each of whom
4 shall be an individual knowledgeable in data process-
5 ing and either a member of an advisory board or a
6 consumer of services familiar with the operations of
7 the state agencies, with the 2 commissioners and the
8 Director of Community Services each appointing one
9 member, who shall not be an employee of the depart-
10 ment or division; and 2 members appointed by the
11 chairman of the Human Services Council, who shall be
12 members of the council, or council staff or individu-
13 als from the private sector who shall be
14 knowledgeable in the science and administration of
15 data processing in community service agencies. Mem-
16 bers shall not be vendors or representatives of ven-
17 dors of data-processing equipment or supplies. The
18 chairman of the Joint Select Committee shall be des-
19 ignated jointly by the chairmen of the Joint Standing
20 Committee on Health and Institutional Services. The
21 Joint Select Committee shall meet at least once every
22 2 months to advise on the study and the preparation
23 of reports and to conduct its deliberations; and be
24 it further

25 Resolved: That the study and advice shall
26 include, but not be limited to:

27 1. How client information systems and program
28 management records in current use or proposed to be
29 used may be improved to best establish, maintain and
30 update, in accordance with a timetable to be speci-
31 fied, a Maine Income Supplementation and Social Ser-
32 vices Information System consisting of compatible,
33 coordinated subsystems. The system shall be improved
34 for the purpose of:

35 A. Establishing a client-centered information
36 system that achieves appropriate confidentiality
37 and privacy of client records and that serves
38 clients in an effective manner with a minimum of
39 paper work and procedures;

40 B. Providing for efficient interagency relation-
41 ships and coordinated program management among
42 publicly and privately operated state-administer-
43 ed programs; and

1 C. Providing for continuing updating of computer
2 hardware and software within a practical and
3 cost-conscious framework and timetable that is
4 adequately monitored;

5 2. Whether and how the systems may have improved
6 data sharing, communication and program interrela-
7 tionships for the purpose of enabling:

8 A. The establishment of a Maine Income Supple-
9 mentation and Social Services Index;

10 B. The tracking of services provided by multiple
11 programs to a client; and

12 C. The provision of policy-making data to the
13 Executive and Legislative Branches; and

14 3. How client access to services may be improved
15 by more effective and efficient administration of
16 client entry to services. While such a topic cannot
17 be fully addressed in a study of information systems
18 and program management records, the study and reports
19 shall include an associated review of client access
20 issues and an outline of possible ways to address
21 those issues.

22 The subject matter of this resolve includes, but
23 is not limited to, income supplementation and social
24 services operated with state-administered funds by
25 the Department of Human Services, the Department of
26 Mental Health and Mental Retardation and the Division
27 of Community Services. The Bureau of Central Com-
28 puter Services shall be the lead agency for carrying
29 out the intent of this resolve.

30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
31 in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when
32 approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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The purpose of this resolve is reflected in the
emergency preamble.

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