

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 96

7 H.P. 76

House of Representatives, January 17, 1985

8 Submitted by the Joint Standing Committee on State Government
9 pursuant to Joint Rule 19. Approved by Legislative Council April 25, 1984.

10 Reported by Representative Gwadosky from the Committee on State
Government and printed under Joint Rule 19.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Establish a Business Assistance
18 Referral Program Within the State Development
19 Office.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7002, sub-§2, ¶M is enacted to
24 read:

25 M. The director shall implement a program to as-
26 sist businesses by referring businesses and per-
27 sons to the proper agencies designed to provide
28 the business services or assistance requested,
29 and to serve as a central clearing house of in-
30 formation with respect to business assistance
31 programs and services available in the State.
32 The director shall maintain and update annually a
33 list of the business assistance programs and ser-
34 vices and the names, locations and telephone num-
35 bers of the organizations providing these pro-
36 grams and services that are available within the

1 State. The director may publish a guide consist-
2 ing of the business assistance programs and ser-
3 vices available from public sector or private
4 sector organizations throughout the State.

5 Sec. 2. 5 MRSA c. 361, sub-c. III is enacted to
6 read:

7 SUBCHAPTER III

8 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICE REFERRAL PROGRAM

9 §7015. Program; design

10 The Business Assistance and Service Referral Pro-
11 gram shall serve to assist owners of new or expanding
12 businesses or persons exploring business opportuni-
13 ties within the State with respect to the business
14 assistance programs and services available throughout
15 the State. This program shall be designed to:

16 1. Respond to requests. Expeditiously respond
17 to written and oral requests for information about
18 business services and business assistance programs
19 available throughout the State;

20 2. Obtain and compile information. Obtain and
21 compile the most current and available information
22 pertaining to business assistance programs and ser-
23 vices within the State;

24 3. Delineate programs and services. Delineate
25 the business assistance programs and services by type
26 of program or service and by agency; and

27 4. Maintain list of marketing pro-
28 grams. Maintain a list, to be updated annually, of
29 marketing programs of state agencies with a descrip-
30 tion of each program.

31 §7016. Program to be promoted

32 The Director of the State Development Office
33 shall advertise and promote the program throughout
34 the State. At a minimum, the program shall be adver-
35 tised in the major circulating state newspapers as of-
36 ten as necessary to establish a public awareness of
37 the program.

1 §7017. Agencies to cooperate

2 State agencies and departments and economic de-
3 velopment agencies of political subdivisions of the
4 State shall cooperate with and expeditiously respond
5 to the requests of the State Development Office.
6 Each organization required by this subchapter to co-
7 operate with the State Development Office shall, at a
8 minimum, provide the State Development Office with
9 descriptions of its business assistance programs and
10 services, marketing programs, geographical areas
11 served, client qualifications, funding levels and
12 other information requested by the State Development
13 Office to implement this program.

14 §7018. State Planning Office to provide notice of
15 federal grant approval

16 The State Planning Office shall notify the State
17 Development Office of approvals of federal grants as
18 these apply to economic development.

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

22		<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
23	<u>STATE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE</u>		
24	Positions	(1)	(1)
25	Personal Services	\$20,000	\$20,000
26	All Other	<u>15,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
27	Total	\$35,000	\$40,000

28 This appropriation pro-
29 vides funds for the im-
30 plementation of the Busi-
31 ness Assistance and Ser-
32 vice Referral Program and
33 includes funding for a
34 1-800 telephone line and
35 for promotion and adver-

1 tising of the program.

2 STATEMENT OF FACT

3 In its study on economic development agencies of
4 the State, the joint standing committee having juris-
5 diction over State Government found that many busi-
6 nesses are ignorant of the business assistance and
7 service organizations and programs of the State. In
8 many cases, banks, insurance companies, real estate
9 brokers and other financial organizations do not make
10 clients representing new or expanding businesses
11 aware of the state program.

12 This lack of knowledge of state business assist-
13 ance and service programs has been costly to the
14 State. As a result, the Committee on State Govern-
15 ment proposes in this bill to establish a business
16 assistance service referral program within the State
17 Development Office. This program requires one person
18 who is well versed in the availability and location
19 of business assistance and service programs who can
20 refer potential and current business people to the
21 appropriate agencies to serve their needs. In addi-
22 tion, this bill requires the service to be advertised
23 to insure that interested people are aware of the
24 service. A 1-800 telephone number is also included.

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