

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 336

6  
7 H.P. 266

House of Representatives, February 1, 1985

8 Submitted by the Executive Department, Division of Community Services  
pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

9 Reference to the Committee on Audit and Program Review suggested and  
10 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Rolde of York.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Boutilier of Lewiston, Representative  
Lacroix of Oakland and Senator Diamond of Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Amend the Maine Community Services  
18 Act.  
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3514, as enacted by PL 1983, c.  
23 176, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

24 §3514. Division of Community Services

25 There is established, to carry out the purposes  
26 of this chapter, the Division of Community Services  
27 in the Executive Department, which shall carry out  
28 the responsibilities of State Government relating to  
29 planning and financing community services and commu-  
30 nity action agencies and shall administer state and  
31 federal community services' programs and other block  
32 grants that may be available, including, but not lim-  
33 ited to, energy assistance and, weatherization, food  
34 assistance and Head Start.

1           Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §3518, sub-§1. as amended by PL  
2 1983, c. 480, Pt. B, §4, is further amended to read:

3           1. Federal, state and other funds. Through  
4 plans and contracts developed with advice from the  
5 board, the division shall obtain, distribute and ad-  
6 minister federal, state and other community services'  
7 funds, including block grants, energy assistance,  
8 weatherization, food assistance, Head Start and other  
9 ~~federal~~ funds as may become available. Any balances  
10 of funds appropriated to the Division of Community  
11 Services remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall  
12 not lapse but shall be carried forward from year to  
13 year to be expended for the same purpose.

14           Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §3520, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by  
15 PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. B, §5, is further amended to  
16 read:

17           A. Overall direction, oversight and development  
18 of policies of the agency;

19           Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §3521, as enacted by PL 1983, c.  
20 176, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

21           §3521. Programs

22           All programs administered by community action  
23 agencies shall be in conformance with federal and  
24 state laws and regulations. Recipients of Applicants  
25 for programs and assistance shall be promptly noti-  
26 fied of their rights and responsibilities when they  
27 qualify for or are denied services.

28           Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §3522, as amended by PL 1983, c.  
29 480, Pt. B, §§6 and 7, is further amended to read:

30           §3522. Allocation of Community Services Block Grant  
31 funds

32           1. Distribution of Community Services Block  
33 Grant funds. The Division of Community Services  
34 shall administer and distribute to community action  
35 agencies, according to Title 5, section 1670, ~~block~~  
36 ~~grant~~ Community Services Block Grant funds received  
37 from the Federal Government.

1           2. Community action agencies; priority. Of the  
2 90% passed through to local agencies, community ac-  
3 tion agencies shall receive first priority in the al-  
4 location of ~~community services block grant~~ Community  
5 Services Block Grant funds. These funds shall be  
6 distributed according to a formula determined annual-  
7 ly as follows.

8           A. Twenty percent of this 90% of the ~~community~~  
9 ~~services block grant~~ Community Services Block  
10 Grant funds shall be divided equally among all  
11 designated agencies.

12           B. The balance of these funds shall be distrib-  
13 uted according to rules as promulgated by the di-  
14 vision with advice from the board.

15           3. Block grant proposals. Proposals for ~~commu-~~  
16 ~~nity services block grant~~ Community Services Block  
17 Grant funds, submitted to the Legislature by the di-  
18 vision in accordance with section 1670, shall be de-  
19 veloped with advice from the board and shall:

20           A. Include a description of current usages of  
21 ~~community services block grant~~ Community Services  
22 Block Grant funds and how the plan proposes to  
23 change that distribution;

24           B. Retain the absolute minimum necessary for  
25 state administrative costs; and

26           C. Provide for maximum flexibility within commu-  
27 nity action agencies for the usage of ~~community~~  
28 ~~services block grant~~ Community Services Block  
29 Grant funds.

30           Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §3523 is enacted to read:

31           §3523. Confidentiality of records

32           1. Confidentiality. Records containing the fol-  
33 lowing information shall be deemed confidential and  
34 shall not be considered public records for the pur-  
35 pose of Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, or any  
36 amendment thereto:



1           Section 1 is revised to specifically include the  
2 food assistance and Head Start programs which are anticipated to be continuing and permanent programs administered by the Division of Community Services.

5           Section 2 adds state and other funds as a possible source of funding and specifically includes 2 programs which the division anticipates will be continuing programs. This section also provides that state funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year may be expended in future years for the same purpose.

11          Section 3 clarifies the intention of the provision.

13          Section 4 extends protection to program applicants in addition to recipients.

15          Section 5 clarifies the fact that there is only one Community Services Block Grant; it is not a generic name. It is the funds that are allocated and distributed, not the grant itself.

19          Section 6 adds a provision for the confidentiality of records. Presently there exists protection for confidential information collected in connection with 2 programs administered by the Division of Community Services, the Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5205. This extends the protection of confidentiality to all authorized programs of the division and programs administered by the community action agencies. Confidentiality for applicants

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