

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document NO. 117

H.P. 107 House of Representatives, January 28, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative DIAMOND of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Representatives LISNIK of Presque Isle,
MURPHY of Kennebunk and Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Expand the Number of Elder
Volunteers Working in Areas of
Literacy and In-home Support for
Families in the Retired Senior
Volunteer Programs, Foster Grandparent
Programs and Senior Companion
Program.

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

Appropriation. The following funds are appropri-
ated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes
of this Act.

1	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
2	<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT</u>	
3	<u>OF</u>	
4	Bureau of Maine's Elderly	
5	All Other	
6	\$99,000	\$99,000
7	Provides funds to be	
8	divided equally among	
9	the following: Each	
10	of the 6 Retired Sen-	
11	ior Volunteer Pro-	
12	grams, each of the 2	
13	Foster Grandparent	
14	Programs and the Sen-	
	ior Companion Program.	

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 The Older American Volunteer Programs in Maine
 17 are 6 Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, 2 Foster
 18 Grandparent Programs and one Senior Companion Pro-
 19 gram. These programs have developed expertise in
 20 providing services in these many areas of basic human
 21 needs, including in-home volunteers for families at
 22 risk, literacy and substance abuse.

23 1. In-home support for families. The Retired
 24 Senior Volunteer Program provides regular friendly
 25 visits and vital transportation for frail elders.
 26 Foster Grandparents provide regular visits in home to
 27 families to help prevent child abuse and neglect.
 28 The Senior Companion Program provides regular visits
 29 to frail elders in cooperation with health agencies
 30 providing in-home care to prevent unnecessary insti-
 31 tutionalization. Senior companions are an important
 32 part of care plans that cover health, nutrition,
 33 transportation and companionship.

34 2. Literacy. The inability to read and write is
 35 a major barrier to financial and intellectual ad-
 36 vancement. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program and
 37 the Foster Grandparent Program working in community
 38 schools, literacy programs and adult education cen-
 39 ters can help Maine residents become literate.

1 3. Substance abuse. Elder volunteers will be
2 assigned to treatment, counseling and rehabilitation
3 programs for alcoholics and drug abusers. This shall
4 include working with preventive education programs
5 and with correctional institutions.

6 The 9 Older American Volunteer Programs in Maine
7 will complete annually a grant application to the Bu-
8 reau of Maine's Elderly that explains how each pro-
9 gram will expand the number of elders working in ar-
10 eas of literacy and in-home support for families.
11 Each grant will be unique to each program, based on
12 the needs of the community they serve.

13 The Retired Senior Volunteer Programs are for
14 persons over 60 years of age. They have an opportu-
15 nity to volunteer with different age groups at a wide
16 variety of nonprofit organizations and agencies. In
17 some instances, they are reimbursed for travel and
18 meals.

19 The Foster Grandparent Programs are for low-
20 income elders who wish to volunteer with children
21 with special needs. They each receive a stipend of
22 \$2,290 per year in addition to meal and travel reim-
23 bursements.

24 The Senior Companion Program is for low-income
25 elders who wish to volunteer to assist home-bound el-
26 ders. They receive a stipend of \$2,290 per year and
27 will be reimbursed for travel.

28 All 3 volunteer programs provide placement,
29 training, insurance and special volunteer recognition
30 events.

31 Since the principal source of funds is the Feder-
32 al Agency, ACTION, the fiscal management procedures
33 for receipt and expenditure of funds are established
34 in accordance with federal regulations. The project
35 grantees or sponsors, funded by ACTION, are required
36 to demonstrate their capability to safeguard public
37 expenditures.

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