

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 321

H.P. 248 House of Representatives, February 10, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and  
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative CARTER of Winslow.  
Cosponsored by Senators PEARSON of Penobscot, BUSTIN of  
Kennebec, and Representative ROLDE of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Open Maine Libraries to Modern  
2 Information Technology.  
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §39 is enacted to read:

7 §39. Statewide Library Information System

8 1. Statement of policy. The Legislature de-  
9 clares that it is the policy of the State that coop-  
10 eration among Maine libraries of all types should be  
11 fostered and encouraged. The sharing of library  
12 holdings enriches the economic, educational and cul-  
13 tural life of each Maine community. Citizen access  
14 to materials purchased with public dollars requires  
15 that materials be identifiable by title and physical

1 location. It is in the public interest that the  
2 Maine State Library Bureau promote and assist access  
3 by recording the holdings of Maine libraries in a  
4 form accessible by modern information technology. In  
5 this way, the educational and informational resources  
6 of the State will be available to every citizen.

7 2. Legislative Intent. Recognizing the value of  
8 broad citizen access to library materials and recog-  
9 nizing that automated records are essential to the  
10 use of technology, the State assigns to the Maine  
11 State Library Bureau the responsibility of collecting  
12 the holding records of libraries throughout Maine and  
13 making them accessible in machine-readable form. It  
14 is the State's intent that these records be shared  
15 with any citizen or library on request. It is the  
16 intent of the Legislature to provide the Maine State  
17 Library Bureau with the resources necessary to carry  
18 out this section.

19 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are  
20 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the  
21 purposes of this Act.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>\$ 1988-89</u>
<u>EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SER-</u>		
<u>VICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
Maine State Library Bureau		
Positions	(2.5)	(2.5)
Personal Services	\$ 63,418	\$ 64,599
All Other	448,000	199,250
Capital Expenditures	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL	\$536,418	\$288,849

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2           The bill creates a machine readable catalog of  
3 statewide library holdings, enabling the people of  
4 the State to identify what Maine library owns a  
5 needed title. This makes a universe of informational  
6 materials beyond the local library available to each  
7 library user. It also provides libraries with the  
8 fundamental tool necessary to future automation ac-  
9 tivities, both within each library and among librari-  
10 es engaging in cooperative regional and statewide  
11 efforts.

12           The bill promotes the effective use of public  
13 dollars, locally and statewide, through library auto-  
14 mation. It is similar to activities in most other  
15 states and is fully in line with the State's role in  
16 encouraging library cooperation.

17           The computerized file resulting from this bill  
18 allows the individual local library to know what is  
19 owned by other libraries in Maine, promoting citizen  
20 access and reducing unnecessary duplicate purchases.  
21 When a library computerizes its own internal opera-  
22 tions, the presence of an already existing data base  
23 of the library's holdings will simplify and make much  
24 less expensive the move into greater operational ef-  
25 ficiency through library automation.

26           This bill, the result of a 3-year planning effort  
27 among libraries statewide, places into motion the  
28 following processes:

29           First, the collection of already existing ma-  
30 chine-readable records into a central file;

31           Second, the addition of new records to the cen-  
32 tral file, with the goal of converting all available  
33 records from participating libraries according to a  
34 multi-year plan. Staff is allocated for this and the  
35 preceding goal;

36           Third, the cost-effective distribution of the re-  
37 sulting data base to Maine libraries, so that every  
38 citizen can take early advantage of the product and  
39 so that libraries intending to automate internal op-

1 erations can proceed; and

2 Fourth, the continuing coordination and develop-  
3 ment through the position of the coordinator, whereby  
4 new technology is identified that might contribute to  
5 the legislative intent, and the data base applied to  
6 more powerful statewide usages. This person assists  
7 libraries in the planning, implementation and effec-  
8 tive use of appropriate technology.

9 The multi-year nature of the bill ensures that  
10 the financial impact does not fall on any particular  
11 fiscal year and also provides an immediately useful  
12 product.

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