

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 924

H.P. 683 House of Representatives, March 25, 1987
Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative BOUTILIER of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senators MATTHEWS of Kennebec, WEBSTER of
Franklin and Representative BICKFORD of Jay.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to the State Employee
Assistance Program.

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

6 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1395, as enacted by PL 1985, c.
7 373, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its
8 place:

9 §1395. Funds

10 Funds for the administration of the program shall
11 be distributed to the Division of State Employee As-
12 sistance Program from the Bureau of State Employee
13 Health Internal Service Fund Account, Title 5, sec-
14 tion 956. Funds made available to the division, from
15 any source, shall not lapse, but shall be carried

1 forward to the next fiscal year to be expended for
2 the same purpose.

3 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1397 is enacted to read:**

4 §1397. Coverage

5 1. Executive employees. All executive branch
6 employees and their families and retirees shall be
7 covered by the State Employee Assistance Program.
8 Participation of these employees in the program shall
9 be funded by the departmental funding mechanism es-
10 tablished pursuant to Title 5, section 956.

11 2. Judicial employees. All employees and their
12 families and retirees of the judicial branch, the
13 Maine Vocational-Technical Institute System and Maine
14 Turnpike Authority may participate in the program if
15 each decides to participate through agreement in its
16 collective bargaining process and pays a prorated an-
17 ual fee to the program. The fee shall be determined
18 by dividing the total annual operating cost of the
19 program by the number of eligible state employee par-
20 ticipants multiplied by the total number of new em-
21 ployee participants to be covered by the program.
22 Initial participation may be prorated for part of the
23 first fiscal year of participation in the program.
24 Subsequent participation shall be for full fiscal
25 years. Fees shall be paid to the Bureau of State Em-
26 ployee Health Internal Service Fund Account and shall
27 be dedicated to the enhancement of the State Employee
28 Assistance Program.

29 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

30 This bill clarifies the funding relationship be-
31 tween the State Employee Assistance Program and the
32 Bureau of State Employee Health Internal Service Fund
33 Account. It further clarifies that the program cov-
34 ers all executive branch employees, families and
35 retirees.

36 The bill also makes it possible for employees and
37 family members and retirees within the judicial
38 branch, the Maine Vocational-Technical Institute Sys-

1 tem and the Maine Turnpike Authority to become part
2 of the program by negotiating an agreement to join
3 and pay a fee to the program. It makes sense to in-
4 clude these employee groups in the program because
5 they provide services to the State similar to those
6 provided by executive branch employees and are geo-
7 graphically dispersed in a similar manner. It is
8 more economical to have these groups join the exist-
9 ing program which provides statewide coverage than to
10 have them establish a new overlapping program.

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