

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1233

H.P. 921 House of Representatives, April 10, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative BRAGG of Sidney.
Cosponsored by Senator MATTHEWS of Kennebec,
Representatives HUSSEY of Milo and CROWLEY of Stockton Springs.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Encourage Postponement of Sexual
2 Activity among Unmarried Teenagers.
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §2501, sub-§22, ¶A is enacted to
7 read:

8 A. Title 22, chapter 406-A shall be repealed
9 January 1, 1990.

10 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA c. 406-A is enacted to read:

11 CHAPTER 406-A

12 POSTPONING SEXUAL ACTIVITY

1 §1931. Definitions

2 As used in this chapter, unless the context oth-
3 erwise indicates, the following terms have the fol-
4 lowing meanings.

5 1. Media campaign. "Media campaign" means a va-
6 riety of newspaper, television and radio announce-
7 ments.

8 §1932. Contents of media campaign

9 1. Primary theme. Each announcement of the media
10 campaign shall advocate that postponement of sexual
11 activity among unmarried teenagers is the most effec-
12 tive method of reducing the incidence of teenage
13 pregnancy.

14 2. Additional themes. Each announcement of the
15 media campaign shall convey, in addition to the con-
16 tent of subsection 1, that postponement of sexual ac-
17 tivity among unmarried teenagers has one or more of
18 the following positive results:

19 A. Reduced risk of contracting venereal disease
20 and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, AIDS;

21 B. Continuing emotional well-being of the
22 teenagers;

23 C. Increased potential for future financial in-
24 dependence of the teenagers; and

25 D. A decreased economic burden on society.

26 The media campaign shall emphasize equally each of
27 the positive results listed in paragraphs A to D.

28 3. Audience. The department shall ensure that
29 the media campaign is produced and published in a
30 manner that effectively encourages teenagers to post-
31 pone sexual activity.

32 §1933. Administration

33 The department shall contract and work closely
34 with a professional advertising agency or agencies to

1 produce the media campaign or shall purchase the me-
2 dia campaign. The department shall distribute or con-
3 tract to distribute the media campaign statewide to
4 newspapers, television and radio stations. The de-
5 partment is responsible for ensuring periodic publi-
6 cations of the media campaign.

7 §1934. Legislative review

8 This chapter is subject to repeal under Title 1,
9 section 2501. The legislative committee having juris-
10 diction over the review provided in Title 1, section
11 2502, shall be the joint standing committee of the
12 Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources.

13 Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are
14 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
15 purposes of this Act.

16		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
17	<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
18	Positions	(1/2)	(1/2)
19	Personal Services	\$ 11,500	\$ 13,500
20	All Other	100,000	100,000
21			
22	Total	<u>\$111,500</u>	<u>\$113,500</u>

23 Any unexpended
24 balance shall
25 not lapse, but
26 shall remain a
27 continuing car-
28 rying account
29 until the pur-
30 pose of this Act
31 has been accom-
32 plished.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to require the De-
3 partment of Human Services to sponsor a media cam-
4 paign which persuades unmarried teenagers to postpone
5 sexual activity.

6 An obvious result of premarital teenage sexual
7 activity is unwanted teenage pregnancies. According
8 to the Governor's Task Force on Adolescent Pregnancy,
9 one in 14 Maine teenagers becomes pregnant each year.
10 National research shows that only 20% of teenage
11 mothers planned to have children. Unfortunately, only
12 a small minority of these children receive financial
13 help from the fathers. The result is a staggering ex-
14 pense to the State. For example, 1/2 of Maine chil-
15 dren receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Chil-
16 dren have mothers who gave birth in their teens and
17 at current rates of expenditure these mothers and
18 children will cost \$50,000,000 in Aid to Families
19 with Dependent Children benefits in 1987. Unplanned
20 teenage pregnancies tend to curtail the educational
21 and emotional development of young parents and, con-
22 sequently, diminish the potential for future finan-
23 cial independence. Sexual activity among unmarried
24 teenagers also presents the risk of contracting seri-
25 ous venereal diseases and acquired immune deficiency
26 syndrome, AIDS.

27 Postponement of sexual activity among unmarried
28 teenagers is the most effective method of reducing
29 unwanted teenage pregnancies and drastically reduces
30 the potential of teenagers for contracting
31 sexually-transmitted diseases. It is consistent with
32 public policy for the Department of Human Services to
33 undertake a media campaign that encourages unmarried
34 teenagers to postpone engaging in sexual activity.

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