

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 456

H.P. 337

House of Representatives, February 27, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative NADEAU of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator DUTREMBLE of York, Representative CARTER of Winslow and Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to End Homelessness in Maine.



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

3 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1813, sub-§6,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 395,
Pt. A, §21, is further amended to read:

5
6. **Surplus property.** Providing for transfer of supplies,
7 materials and equipment which are surplus from one state
department or agency to another which may need them, and for the
8 disposal by private and public sale of supplies, materials and
equipment which are obsolete and unusable; provided, however,
9 that if any political subdivision in the State or any educational
10 institution or homeless shelter sponsor enumerated in section
11 1813-A requests to purchase any such obsolete and unusable items,
12 then the disposal shall be by private sale to that political
13 subdivision, homeless shelter sponsor or educational institution;
14 that equipment to be retained for a period of at least one year
15 in a current ongoing program. Any item purchased by a political
16 subdivision, homeless shelter sponsor or educational institution
17 under this section shall not be sold or transferred by that
18 political subdivision, homeless shelter sponsor or educational
19 institution for a period of 6 months from the date of the private
20 sale and the State reserves the right to refuse to sell
21 additional equipment to a political subdivision, homeless shelter
22 sponsor or educational institution if it is determined that the
23 political subdivision, homeless shelter sponsor or educational
24 institution has not retained the equipment for the required
25 period of 6 months;

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27
28 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §1813-A, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

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30 **1-A. Homeless shelter sponsor.** "Homeless shelter sponsor"
31 means a public or private nonprofit entity which owns or operates
32 a project or facility for the homeless.

33
34 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §1813-A, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1985, c. 785,
Pt. A, §74, is further amended to read:

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38 **2. Surplus property; private sale to educational**
39 **institutions and homeless shelter sponsors.** Pursuant to this
chapter and rules promulgated under section 1813, the Department
40 of Administration through the Bureau of Purchases shall allow
41 private sales of surplus property to educational institutions and
42 homeless shelter sponsors.

43
44 **Sec. 4. Interagency Committee on Homelessness; establishment.** The
45 Interagency Committee on Homelessness is established to inventory
46 the availability of resources for the homeless, coordinate their
47 efficient delivery and ensure full utilization of federal funds
48 for the homeless. The committee shall be made up of the
49 following persons or their representatives: the Commissioner of
50 Human Services, the Commissioner of Labor, the Commissioner of
51

1 Corrections, the Commissioner of Economic and Community
2 Development, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental
3 Retardation, the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural
4 Services, the Director of the Maine State Housing Authority and
5 the Director of the Division of Community Services. The
6 designated Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Plan, CHAP,
7 coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating the committee's
8 activities and reporting to the Legislature by January 1st of
9 each year on the progress in addressing the problem of
10 homelessness in Maine and on the level of federal funds brought
11 into the State. Committee members shall provide the coordinator
12 with a complete list of all their programs and resources
13 available for the homeless and shall assist in preparation of the
14 annual Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Plan. Committee members
15 shall, to the fullest extent possible, apply for all federal
16 funds available for the homeless and coordinate the delivery of
17 their assistance to the homeless with the other departments and
18 agencies.

19 **Sec. 5. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
20 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

21
22 **1989-90**

23
24 **MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

25
26 **Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund**

27
28 All Other \$1,000,000

29
30 The funds shall be used to provide temporary
31 assistance of last resort to people who need
32 shelter or who are in danger of becoming
33 homeless through eviction or foreclosure.
34 Assistance may be in the form of short-term
35 loans or grants for mortgage payments or
36 other expenses necessary to prevent
37 foreclosure and security deposits, rent
38 arrearages, forward rent payments or other
39 expenses necessary to prevent eviction or to
40 establish a person in a rental.

41
42 **Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund**

43
44 All Other \$600,000

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46 The funds shall be used in conjunction with
47 the creation of transitional housing units
48 for the homeless to lower interest costs,
49 provide rental assistance or to otherwise
50 make the cost of the units more affordable
51 to homeless individuals and families.

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**MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY
TOTAL**

\$1,600,000

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

All Other \$500,000

The funds shall be used to establish a system of cost reimbursement for sponsors of facilities which provide emergency housing for the homeless. The funds shall be used to finance the operating budgets of the facilities and to allow the sponsor to add necessary services.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TOTAL**

\$500,000

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS

\$2,100,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides for an appropriation of \$2.1 million from the General Fund to help stop homelessness in Maine. One million dollars will be used to establish a prevention program to provide temporary assistance of last resort to people facing imminent homelessness. Six hundred thousand dollars will be used to continue a program of creating transitional housing units for homeless people to get them out of the emergency shelter cycle. Five hundred thousand dollars will be used to establish a system of cost reimbursement for sponsors of facilities providing emergency shelter for the homeless to be administered by the Department of Human Services.

The Interagency Committee on Homelessness is created to inventory available resources for the homeless, coordinate their efficient delivery and ensure full utilization of federal funds for the homeless. The committee shall report annually to the Legislature on the progress in addressing the problem of homelessness in Maine.

The bill also adds nonprofit sponsors of facilities for the homeless to the list of entities eligible to purchase surplus state property.