

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 97, L.D. 138, Bill, "An Act to Appropriate Funds to Continue the Surname Index Project at the Maine State Library"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Surname Index Project has been in operation for 20 years to catalog and record in a central place important genealogical and historical data about Maine people, especially early settlers; and

Whereas, the information collected by the Surname Index Project is vital to genealogical and historical research; and

Whereas, the Surname Index Project has operated in the past with volunteer resources and small grants, which are no longer available, from the Maine State Library; and

Whereas, without a replacement for grants, the volunteer resources can not be supported and coordinated, the impetus of the program will be lost and the data that is not yet recorded may never be available for genealogical and historical research; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

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

	1991-92	1992-93
MAINE STATE LIBRARY		
Reader and Information Services - Library		
All Other	\$20,000	\$15,000
Provides funding to continue the Surname Index Project.		

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

FISCAL NOTE

	1991-92	1992-93
APPROPRIATION		
General Fund	\$20,000	\$15,000

This bill provides General Fund appropriations to continue the Surname Index Project. Appropriations beyond fiscal year 1992-93 may be required to finish the project.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment provides funding through the Maine State Library for the continuation of the Surname Index Project. The Surname Index Project is a mostly volunteer project begun in 1970 to catalog and record genealogical and historical data about Maine people, especially early settlers. The amendment changes the fiscal year 1991-92 appropriation to provide for the one-time costs of purchasing computer hardware and software for the project and adds an appropriation for fiscal year 1992-93 for personnel and supplies for the project. It is anticipated the project will take at least 2 years to complete.

The Genealogical Society of Utah has made a commitment to microfilm the genealogical and historical data collected by the Surname Index Project at no expense to this State. The approximate value of this microfilming is \$200,000. A copy of

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 97, L.D. 138

- 2 the microfilmed records will be placed in the Maine State Library
at no cost. When the project is complete, the Maine State
4 Library will house the most complete genealogical and historical
records of any state.

Reported by the Committee on Education

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