

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 947

H.P. 667

House of Representatives, March 7, 1991

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 1991. Referred to the Committee on Human Resources and 1400 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative CARROLL of Gray.

Cosponsored by Senator GILL of Cumberland, Representative MacBRIDE of Presque Isle and Representative LOOK of Jonesboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Support an Affordable Emergency Medical Services System.

(EMERGENCY)



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

Whereas, emergency medical services, or EMS, are recognized to be effective in saving the lives of hundreds of citizens and visitors annually who would have otherwise died from their injuries or acute illness; and

Whereas, EMS are recognized to be effective in improving the quality of life of thousands of citizens and visitors annually who would have otherwise suffered greater incapacitation as a result of their injuries or acute illness; and

Whereas, those citizens whose lives have been preserved by EMS are estimated to generate more than \$165,000,000 of income and contribute more than \$2,000,000 in state income tax annually to the General Fund; and

Whereas, EMS volunteers are estimated to contribute over \$20,000,000 in service annually which would otherwise require tax-base or patient-charge subsidy; and

Whereas, it is vital to the citizens to have a coordinated EMS system, to encourage EMS training and to support volunteerism; 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

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Emergency Medical Services

All Other \$2,010,000 \$2,010,000

Provides funds for grants to EMS system agencies and to EMS providers, with agencies utilizing volunteers or serving rural populations given highest consideration,

2 for the purchase of equipment
 or the support of projects
 4 such as critical incident
 stress debriefing and
 6 volunteer recruitment,
 necessary to improve or
 maintain a level of service.
 8 These funds also provide for
 communications equipment for
 10 mass casualty incident
 response.

12 **Emergency Medical Services**

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 14 | All Other | \$719,456 | \$762,623 |
| 16 | Capital Expenditures | 48,000 | 16,000 |
| 18 | TOTAL | <u>\$767,456</u> | <u>\$778,623</u> |

20 Provides funds to increase
 the availability and
 22 affordability of critical
 emergency medical training
 24 for EMS providers through
 training subsidization, with
 26 volunteers given highest
 consideration; to coordinate
 28 and improve the availability
 of advanced life support
 30 training and EMS programs; to
 improve quality assurance
 32 programming and therefore
 allow the continuation of
 34 advanced life support patient
 care; to provide grants for
 36 training equipment for
 regional EMS programs; and to
 38 provide EMS instruction in
 areas geographically isolated
 40 from usual sources of EMS
 training. Provides
 42 interactive trainer and
 vehicle in 1992 and used
 44 replacement ambulances in
 46 1993 for driver training.

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 48 | DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES | | |
| | TOTAL | <u>\$2,777,456</u> | <u>\$2,788,623</u> |

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill provides General Fund appropriations for a coordinated emergency medical services system, training, quality assurance services and capital expenditures.

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