

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAJORITY  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 660, L.D. 913, Bill, "An Act to Provide Funding for Mental Health Services for Homeless Shelters"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Provide Additional Operating Funds for Homeless Shelters'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5042, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. K, §82 and affected by §83, is further amended to read:

1. Membership. The Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities consists of ~~21~~ 12 people appointed as follows:

A. The commissioners, a deputy commissioner or their designees an associate commissioner of each of the following departments:

- (1) The Department of Human Services;
- (2) The Department of Labor;
- (3) The Department of Corrections; and
- ~~(4) The Department of Education;~~

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2           ~~(5)---The---Department---of---Economic---and---Community~~  
3           ~~Development;~~

4           (6)     The     Department     of     Mental     Health,     Mental  
5           Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; and

6           ~~(7)---The---Department---of---Agriculture,---Food---and---Rural~~  
7           ~~Resources;~~

8  
9           B.   The director or deputy director of:

10           (1)   The Maine State Housing Authority;

11           C.   Five Three persons appointed jointly by the President of  
12           the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
13           as follows:

14           (1)   One member to represent a community action agency;

15           (2)   One member to represent a nonprofit agency  
16           providing shelter to the homeless; and

17           ~~(3)---One--member--to--represent--a--nonprofit--housing~~  
18           ~~development--corporation;~~

19           (4)   One member to represent municipalities; and

20           ~~(5)---One-member-to-represent-low-income-people;-and~~

21           D.   Eight Four persons appointed by the Governor, at  
22           least --4- 3 of whom must be chosen from a list of  
23           nominations provided by a statewide coalition for the  
24           homeless to represent homeless and formerly homeless people  
25           and low-income tenants.

26           **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5044**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 610, §19,  
27           is further amended to read:

28           **§5044. Duties**

29           The interagency task force shall advise the state authority  
30           with respect to the implementation of this chapter and the  
31           development of affordable housing. The task force shall:

32           ~~1.---Assist---in---the---development---of---affordable---housing---plan.~~  
33           ~~Assist---the---state---authority---with---the---development---of---the---affordable~~  
34           ~~housing---plan---under---subchapter---I;~~

~~2. Make recommendations. Make recommendations to the state authority, the Governor and the Legislature with respect to policies, programs and funding under this chapter;~~

~~3. Review programs and policies. Review and examine the plan, programs, policies and funding to determine their effectiveness. The task force shall provide the findings of its review to the persons and organizations set forth in subsection 2;~~

4. **Serve as coordinator of information.** Serve as a coordinator of information and communication among state agencies and among the state, municipal and private sectors with respect to this chapter; and

5. **Assistance to homeless.** In cooperation with the state authority, identify the resources available to the homeless and persons with special needs, identify the gaps in delivery services to this population and make recommendations concerning the policies and programs serving this population.

**Sec. 3. Study.** The Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities shall study and provide recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 1997 on:

A. How best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to those homeless persons with mental illness or substance abuse problems; and

B. The future role and responsibilities, if any, of the interagency task force.

The study must include an inventory of the current safety and health requirements, licenses and permits applicable to homeless shelters, including shelters for families, adolescents, adults and victims of domestic violence.

**Sec. 4. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
<b>MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY</b>		
<b>Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund</b>		
All Other	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Provides operating funds for homeless shelters.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

1997-98 1998-99

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$1,000,000 \$1,000,000

This bill includes General Fund appropriations of \$1,000,000 annually in fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99 to the Maine State Housing Authority to provide funding to homeless shelters.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Education may realize some minor administrative savings from the removal of these departments from the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities.'

SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. This amendment provides \$1,000,000 per year in funds to the Maine State Housing Authority for use by homeless shelters to offset costs incurred by increased occupancy in the State's homeless shelters. This amendment reduces and strengthens the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and directs it to report to the Governor and Legislature on how best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to persons with mental illness and to make recommendations on the future role and responsibilities of the task force. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.