

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1887

S.P. 665

In Senate, March 16, 1999

**An Act to Provide Access to Information Services in All Communities of the State.**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KONTOS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative BUMPS of China and  
Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, PENDLETON of Cumberland, Representatives: AHEARNE  
of Madawaska, BAGLEY of Machias, RICHARDSON of Greenville.

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

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Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 17 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 17

MAINE GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION NETWORK BOARD

§353. Maine Governmental Information Network Board established

The Maine Governmental Information Network Board, referred to in this chapter as the "board," is established to enhance electronic data exchange among state and local governments and other providers of governmental services. The board shall oversee the statewide computer network that connects individual municipal governments and other governmental service providers with the State's wide-area computer network.

§354. Board membership; term of office; organization; reimbursement

1. Membership. The board consists of 7 members. The Secretary of State and the Director of the Bureau of Information Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, or their designees, shall serve on the board. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one public member. A statewide municipal government organization shall recommend and the Governor shall appoint 2 members representing municipalities. A statewide information services group shall recommend and the Governor shall appoint one member with technical expertise in electronic communications.

2. Terms of members. The Secretary of State and the Director of the Bureau of Information Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, or their designees, shall serve as permanent members of the board. The members from municipalities, the member with technical expertise and the public members serve 3-year terms, except that initially one municipal member and one public member serve 3-year terms, the member with technical expertise and one municipal member serve 2-year terms, and one public member serves a one-year term. Each member may be appointed for another term upon the completion of a term on the board.

3. Chair. The board annually shall select a chair from among its members. The board shall meet at the call of the chair, but no less than once every 3 months.

2           4. Compensation. Members of the board serve without  
3           compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

4           **§355. Powers and duties**

6           The board shall:

8           1. Oversight. Oversee the expansion of the statewide  
9           computer network to connect state, local and regional  
10           governments and other providers of governmental services;

12           2. Access to data. Enable access to the electronic data  
13           resources of any state agency whose data enhances the delivery by  
14           a municipal government or county government of state services,  
15           except the board may not enable access to any confidential  
16           information that is not necessary to the delivery of services by  
17           municipalities or counties;

18           3. Grants. Provide grants to municipalities and counties  
19           for the purchase of computer hardware, software and peripherals  
20           necessary to connect the municipalities and county governments  
21           with state data and information systems;

22           4. Technical support. Contract with public or private  
23           individuals or organizations to provide technical support to  
24           municipal and county information network participants;

25           5. Training. Contract with public or private individuals  
26           or organizations to provide basic computer training and  
27           instruction in the operation of the statewide computer network;  
28           and

29           6. Consultants; funding. Employ consultants and accept and  
30           use any funding available to the board to carry out its duties  
31           and responsibilities.

32           The board may establish fee schedules and, through its  
33           administrative unit, collect fees for technical services or  
34           information systems support provided to municipalities, counties  
35           or other providers of governmental services.

36           **§356. Administration**

37           The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide  
38           administrative support to the board in the execution of its  
39           duties and responsibilities. The Office of the Secretary of  
40           State is responsible for all regular operations of the board,  
41           including, but not limited to, the administration of grants,  
42           technical and training requirements and consultant contracts.

2                    **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-L, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

4                    11. Maine                    Expenses                    5 MRSA  
     Governmental Information    Only                    \$353  
6                    Network Board

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

	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2000-01</b>
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE</b>		
<b>Maine Governmental Information Network Board</b>		
All Other	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

20                    Provides funds for the  
22                    establishment of the Maine  
24                    Governmental Information  
26                    Network Board, which, among  
28                    other things, will provide  
30                    grants to counties and  
32                    municipalities to fund the  
                     purchase of computer  
                     hardware, software and  
                     peripherals and to link them  
                     with each other and the  
                     State's wide-area computer  
                     network.

34                    **SUMMARY**

36                    This bill expands access to the electronic databases of the  
38                    State by creating the Maine Governmental Information Network  
40                    Board. The board is charged with overseeing the expansion of the  
42                    State's wide-area computer network to encompass municipalities,  
44                    counties and other providers of state services. This bill  
                     requires the Secretary of State to provide administrative support  
                     to the board. This bill seeks an appropriation from the General  
                     Fund of \$5,000,000 during the 2000-2001 biennium.