

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1646

S.P. 523

In Senate, March 15, 2001

**An Act to Provide Statewide Access for Schools and Libraries to On-line Reference Materials and Periodicals.**

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Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs 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 EDMONDS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative ROSEN of Bucksport and  
Senators: BROMLEY of Cumberland, SAWYER of Penobscot, Representative: NASS of  
Acton.

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

**Sec. 1. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2001-02

**MAINE STATE LIBRARY**

**Statewide Library Information System**

All Other \$750,000

Provides funds to negotiate and purchase licenses for the publication of copyrighted materials and periodicals to create a statewide database for use by state, school, public and academic libraries in the State. The licensing agreement must include, subject to the availability of funds, a full text reference collection, full text newspapers, full text consumer health information and full text periodical databases for both general research and business research.

**SUMMARY**

This bill appropriates funding for the Maine State Library to on-line reference materials in order to provide less costly and more equitable access to organized, reliable, valid and age-appropriate information for all Maine citizens from school, home or library. Statewide licensing of these materials will give citizens across the State equal access to an expansive collection of data and knowledge; provide businesses and entrepreneurs access to current information; and give educators and students at all levels the most up-to-date teaching and learning tools and resources. This legislation will allow local libraries and schools to offer reference material and periodicals without the burden of paying expensive licensing fees charged by information providers.