

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 523

H.P. 399

House of Representatives, February 1, 2005

**An Act To Designate 2-1-1 Maine, Incorporated as the Sole Provider
for 2-1-1 Information and Referral Services for the State of Maine**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative BRAUTIGAM of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator BROMLEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, DAVIS of Falmouth, DUCHESNE of Hudson,
EBERLE of South Portland, EMERY of Cutler, FISCHER of Presque Isle, Speaker
RICHARDSON of Brunswick, Senator: RAYE of Washington.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** on July 21, 2000 the Federal Communications
Commission determined that there was sufficient public benefit to
justify the use of a scarce public resource to assign 2-1-1 to be
used for access to community information and referral services;
and

10

12 **Whereas,** the Legislature finds that the implementation of a
single, easy-to-use telephone number, 2-1-1, and an Internet
database for public access to information and referral for health
and human services and disaster-related information will benefit
the citizens of this State by providing easier access to
available health and human services, by reducing inefficiencies
in connecting people with the desired service providers and by
reducing duplication of effort; and

20 **Whereas,** 2-1-1 Maine, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization
incorporated under the laws of this State and controlled by the
United Way of Greater Portland, in consultation with the other
United Way agencies serving this State and Ingraham, has been
organized for the purpose of operating a 2-1-1 information and
referral service serving this State; and

26
28 **Whereas,** 2-1-1 Maine, Incorporated has retained Ingraham to
operate the 2-1-1 Maine, Incorporated call center and maintain
and update the information database to be used by the call
center; and

32 **Whereas,** the Legislature finds that Ingraham is an
experienced provider of information and referral services
operating statewide Maine and is capable of operating the 2-1-1
Maine, Incorporated call center and maintaining and updating the
associated database; and

38 **Whereas,** the Legislature further finds that there is
currently no entity authorized to provide information and
referral services in Maine using the FCC-reserved 2-1-1 telephone
number; and

42
44 **Whereas,** the Public Utilities Commission has determined that
it has no jurisdiction to designate an information and referral
service provider entitled to use the 2-1-1 telephone number in
this State; and

48 **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,

