

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

AND AT THE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
August 3, 1981

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

1981

CHAPTER 507
H. P. 807 — L. D. 967

AN ACT to Establish a Statewide Cancer-Incidence Registry.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 1404 is enacted to read:

§ 1404. Cancer-incidence registry

The Department of Human Services shall establish, maintain and operate a statewide cancer-incidence registry.

Sec. 2. **Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1982-83
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
Personal Services	\$ 9,627
All Other	13,000
	<hr/>
Total	\$22,627

Effective September 18, 1981

CHAPTER 508
H. P. 804 — L. D. 914

AN ACT to Create an Environmental Health Program.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 271 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 271

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

§ 1691. Findings and declaration of purpose

The Legislature finds that adequate measures must be taken to ensure that any threats to the health of the people of the State posed by natural phenomena or the introduction of potentially toxic substances into the environment are identified, appropriately considered and responded to by those responsible for protecting the public's health and environment.

The purpose of this chapter is to create an Environmental Health Program within the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, which would provide the department with the capability it requires to discharge its responsibilities satisfactorily, and to advise other departments and boards charged with similar or related responsibilities regarding the potential health implications of their actions.

§ 1692. Environmental Health Program

The department shall create an Environmental Health Program within the Division of Disease Control of the Bureau of Health, Department of Human Services. This program shall be staffed by individuals with training and experience in environmental medicine, epidemiology, toxicology, statistics and related fields.

The Environmental Health Program shall:

1. Develop and monitor health status. Develop indicators of health problems in the State, monitor the health status of the people of the State and establish and maintain the necessary data banks for broad surveillance of human health and disease in Maine;
2. Identify health problems. Identify significant health problems in the State, including those which may be related to environmental factors;
3. Investigate. Conduct and contract for investigations as necessary to determine whether particular problems are related to environmental factors;
4. Advise state agencies. Advise the Commissioner of Human Services, as well as other state agencies and boards, such as the Departments of Conservation, Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, regarding the potential health implications of their actions, the nature and extent of identified problems and the steps which can be taken to address them; and
5. Public information. Provide the public with information, and advise them as to preventive and corrective actions in the area of environmental health.

§ 1693. Environmental Health Advisory Committee

The commissioner shall appoint a committee of representatives of the public and private sectors to serve as an advisory body to the Environmental Health Program. The committee shall advise, assist and consult with the commissioner regarding the public health implications of hazardous elements in the

environment. The committee may make recommendations to the commissioner, concerning the steps which should be taken to make for a healthful environment. The committee shall be solely advisory in nature. It shall be composed of not less than 11 members, of whom 3 shall be public members. The members shall serve for 3-year terms, except that initially 4 shall be appointed for 3 years, 4 for 2 years and 3 for one year. The members shall include individuals with training and experience in any of the following, or related fields: Environmental medicine; epidemiology; toxicology; human genetics; or biomedical research. The commissioner shall appoint the chairman of the committee. Members of the committee shall serve without pay, but be recompensed for expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. The committee shall meet at least once annually in Augusta.

§ 1694. Contracts with educational, research and eleemosynary institutions

The Environmental Health Program shall, to the maximum extent feasible, and within the amounts appropriated for these purposes, contract with educational, research and eleemosynary institutions within the State for research and investigation activities which can be carried out more economically, expeditiously or conveniently by those nonstate institutions.

§ 1695. Acceptance of funds

The department is authorized to accept any public or private funds which may be available for carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 2. Expenditure Funds. The funds appropriated for personal services under this program in the biennium shall be expended for 2 professional positions and one clerical position.

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

	1981-82	1982-83
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Health		
Positions	(3)	(3)
Personal Services	\$45,187	\$72,142
All Other	21,375	28,500
Capital Expenditures	3,970	—
Total	\$70,532	\$100,642