

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 1, 1982 to June 24, 1983
Chapters 453-End

AND AT THE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
September 6, 1983 to September 7, 1983
Chapters 583-588

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES
ANNOTATED, TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

J.S. McCarthy Co., Inc.
Augusta, Maine
1983

RESOLVES
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

1983

the heir of any artist and the contracting agency participating in the acquisition of works of art under the Percent for Art Act, Revised Statutes, Title 27, chapter 16.

Effective September 23, 1983.

CHAPTER 41

S.P. 613 - L.D. 1748

RESOLVE, Authorizing the Streamlining
of Information Processing by Income
Supplementation and Social Service Programs.

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

Whereas, information relating to tens of thousands of Maine citizens who receive state administered income supplementation and social services is received and maintained in multiple paper and computer-based record systems; and

Whereas, those Maine citizens should be served in a manner that protects their right to privacy and confidential processing of client information; and

Whereas, the design and maintenance of client record information systems requires continuous updating to utilize fast-changing computer technology practically and reasonably in a cost-efficient manner; and

Whereas, several state agencies are currently pursuing proposals to design, redesign, acquire, replace and otherwise improve computer-based hardware and software; and

Whereas, access of clients to services is affected by the coordinated administration of effective services; and

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, be it

Streamlining of information processing by income supplementation and social service programs; authorized. Resolved: That establishing and maintaining a Maine Income Supplementation and Social Service Information System may be desirable, and that a study shall be completed of the feasibility of how best to design and implement it as compatible, coordinated subsystems in accordance with appropriate standards for acquisition and operation of hardware and software; and be it further

Resolved: Any state-administered funds authorized by the Legislature or otherwise available to the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation or the Division of Community Services to be expended for operation or acquisition of any computer-based information system shall be obligated only when the Director of Central Computer Services shall certify that:

1. Operation of computer-based hardware or software is in accordance with appropriate standards, and is compatible with current or planned information systems in terms of communication ability, including exchange of data, and in terms of coordination of data elements and program administration information requirements; or

2. Design, redesign, acquisition, replacement or other improvement of computer-based hardware or software is in accordance with appropriate standards, and is:

A. Beyond the capacity and response time of existing hardware;

B. Beyond the scope of existing software;

C. Shown to be less costly than consolidating with existing hardware, provided that cost is not the sole criterion for making a decision; and

D. Compatible with current or planned information systems in terms of communication ability, including exchange of data, and in terms of coordination of data elements and program administration information requirements; and be it further

Resolved: That the 4 state agencies specified in this resolve shall study how to streamline computer-based information processing by income supplementation and social service programs, including the feasibility of improved communication, compatibility and coordination of these systems. The study shall utilize the interdepartmental method of coordinating policy and program administration. Not later than

February 1, 1984, the state agencies shall issue a status report on the progress of the study to date, and not later than December 15, 1984, the state agencies shall issue a full report of findings, including any legislation deemed necessary, to the Executive Branch and to the Legislature. Thereafter, computer-based information processing shall be monitored by the state agencies and reports issued to the Executive and Legislative Branches, as appropriate and necessary.

A Joint Select Committee on Interagency Information Processing shall advise the Executive and Legislative Branches of State Government on the subject matter of this resolve with the cooperation of the 4 state agencies. The committee shall consist of 7 members, including 2 members who are Legislators, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House; 3 members, each of whom shall be an individual knowledgeable in data processing and either a member of an advisory board or a consumer of services familiar with the operations of the state agencies, with the 2 commissioners and the Director of Community Services each appointing one member, who shall not be an employee of the department or division; and 2 members appointed by the chairman of the Human Services Council, who shall be members of the council, or council staff or individuals from the private sector who shall be knowledgeable in the science and administration of data processing in community service agencies. Members shall not be vendors or representatives of vendors of data-processing equipment or supplies. The chairman of the Joint Select Committee shall be designated jointly by the chairmen of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services. The Joint Select Committee shall meet at least once every 2 months to advise on the study and the preparation of reports and to conduct its deliberations; and be it further

Resolved: That the study and advice shall include, but not be limited to:

1. How client information systems and program management records in current use or proposed to be used may be improved to best establish, maintain and update, in accordance with a timetable to be specified, a Maine Income Supplementation and Social Services Information System consisting of compatible, coordinated subsystems. The system shall be improved for the purpose of:

- A. Establishing a client-centered information system that achieves appropriate confidentiality and privacy of client records and that serves

clients in an effective manner with a minimum of paper work and procedures;

B. Providing for efficient interagency relationships and coordinated program management among publicly and privately operated state-administered programs; and

C. Providing for continuing updating of computer hardware and software within a practical and cost-conscious framework and timetable that is adequately monitored;

2. Whether and how the systems may have improved data sharing, communication and program interrelationships for the purpose of enabling:

A. The establishment of a Maine Income Supplementation and Social Services Index;

B. The tracking of services provided by multiple programs to a client; and

C. The provision of policy-making data to the Executive and Legislative Branches; and

3. How client access to services may be improved by more effective and efficient administration of client entry to services. While such a topic cannot be fully addressed in a study of information systems and program management records, the study and reports shall include an associated review of client access issues and an outline of possible ways to address those issues.

The subject matter of this resolve includes, but is not limited to, income supplementation and social services operated with state-administered funds by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and the Division of Community Services. The Bureau of Central Computer Services shall be the lead agency for carrying out the intent of this resolve.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

Effective June 24, 1983.
