

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

December 5, 1984 to June 20, 1985  
Chapters 384-End

AND AT THE

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

November 13, 1985

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF REVISOR OF STATUTES IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,  
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

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J.S. McCarthy Co., Inc.  
Augusta, Maine  
1985

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**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
CONTINUED

and

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

1985

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Within one year following completion of all regional assessments, the commissioner shall initiate implementation of appropriate state programs to respond to regional needs.

§316. Participation of other agencies

1. Other state agencies. The State Planning Office, the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Finance Authority of Maine and the University of Maine shall cooperate with and assist the commissioner in his efforts to assess regional agricultural opportunities and constraints pursuant to this chapter.

2. Federal agencies. The commissioner shall consult with appropriate federal agencies, including the Farmers Home Administration, the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, in carrying out this chapter.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §2 is amended to read:

§2. Policy

Conservation of soil and water resources may involve adjustments in land and water use and the development, improvement and protection of these resources under various combinations of use. It is declared to be the policy of the Legislature to provide for and encourage the optimal use of the State's agricultural resources, to insure the availability of appropriate soil and water resources for the production of food and other renewable resources, to provide for the conservation of the soil and soil and water resources of this State, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and thereby to preserve natural resources and maintain the economic base for the State's natural resource industries, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this State.

Effective September 19, 1985.

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## CHAPTER 483

H.P. 662 - L.D. 945

AN ACT to Support the Growth and Development  
of Community Child Abuse and Neglect  
Councils.

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

22 MRSA c. 1057 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1057

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT COORDINATING COMMITTEES

§3871. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to encourage and maintain coordinated community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect and to ensure adequate intervention and treatment for abused and neglected children and their families.

§3872. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Community coordinating committee. "Community coordinating committee" means a community council or organization created to encourage and coordinate community efforts to prevent and to treat child abuse and neglect and which provides continuous year-round service.

2. Fiscal agent. "Fiscal agent" means an incorporated community organization, agency or institution designated by the community coordinating committee and authorized by the Department of Human Services to receive and distribute grants to that community coordinating committee.

3. Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Council. "Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Council" means the organization which is composed of a majority of the community coordinating committees. The association shall have at least one representative from each member committee.

§3873. Authorization for expenditure of funds

The Commissioner of Human Services may, from funds authorized to the department, make grants to incorporated community coordinating committees or fiscal agents to further the purposes of this chapter.

1. Grants. Grants shall be made on a competitive basis according to rules adopted or amended by

the commissioner. Grants in excess of \$15,000 shall be made on a one-to-one matching basis with contributions from the community. Community contributions may be donations of cash or may be in kind contributions, as determined by departmental rule.

2. Distribution of grants. Grants shall be awarded to support existing community coordinating committees and to assist the establishment of new community coordinating committees. It is the intent of this chapter to support a statewide network of community coordinating committees by the end of fiscal year 1987.

3. Consultation with Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Council. The Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Council shall advise the department regarding the distribution of grants before any grants are awarded.

§3874. Fiscal agents

A fiscal agent receiving grants under this chapter shall act only in an administrative capacity to receive and distribute grant money to the community coordinating committee, as described in the rules promulgated by the department for regulating the local administration of these programs.

§3875. Community coordinating committee; membership

A community coordinating committee shall be responsible for the governance of the community program under this chapter. Membership of the community coordinating committee shall include representatives from the appropriate regional office of the Department of Human Services, a local mental health agency, the Bureau of Mental Retardation or a local program for the mentally retarded, the local education community, a community agency providing services to children, a community agency which does not provide services to children, the local law enforcement community, the local health community, the local religious community and other community members. The membership shall include at least one person who has experienced child abuse or neglect either directly or as a family member. Terms of membership and methods of appointment or election of members shall be determined by the community coordinating committee's by-laws.

§3876. Waiver of certain requirements

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3873, for grants of \$6,000 or less awarded to community coordinating committees, the department may waive the provisions of section 3875, which designates the membership of a community coordinating committee, and may award the grant directly to an unincorporated committee. No community coordinating committee may receive more than 3 grants under the provisions of the waivers provided by this section.

Effective September 19, 1985.

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## CHAPTER 484

H.P. 964 - L.D. 1385

### AN ACT to Prevent Developmental Disabilities in Maine.

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

22 MRSA c. 962 is enacted to read:

#### CHAPTER 962

#### PREVENTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

#### §3571. Prevention of developmental disabilities

1. Prevention of developmental disabilities; Department of Human Services. The Department of Human Services shall serve as the principal agency for the primary prevention of developmental disabilities in the State and shall provide services for pregnant women and new mothers to minimize the likelihood of their having a developmentally disabled child. In particular, the department shall conduct professional education to assure that the best available prevention techniques are utilized by health care professionals in the State and shall assure that access to prenatal services exists for all women of childbearing age in the State.

2. Counseling and support services; Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall institute programs of family counseling and support services for families with developmentally disabled children aged 0 to 5 years. The purpose of these counseling and support services shall be to increase the family's understanding of the child's special