

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.

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

**PRIVATE AND
SPECIAL LAWS**

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

1985

in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective June 28, 1985.

CHAPTER 79

H.P. 916 - L.D. 1309

AN ACT to Improve the Administration of General Assistance.

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

Sec. 1. Commission established. There is established a Special Select Commission on the Administration and Financing of General Assistance, which shall investigate present and alternative methods of administering and financing the general assistance program within the State.

1. Membership. The commission shall consist of 13 members as follows: Three representatives from the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources, appointed by the Speaker of the House; one Senator from the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources, appointed by the President of the Senate; one representative of the Department of Human Services, appointed by the Commissioner of Human Services; and 2 representatives of municipalities, not from the same municipality, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the President of the Senate, in consultation with the Maine Municipal Association; 2 municipal welfare directors or assessors, one appointed by the Speaker of the House, one appointed by the President of the Senate, in consultation with the Welfare Director Association; 2 representatives of private nonprofit charitable organizations with knowledge and experience in general assistance, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the President of the Senate; and 2 representatives of low-income recipients of general assistance; one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the President of the Senate.

2. Duties. The commission shall inquire into the experience and adequacy of the present methods of administration and financing of the general assistance program and the extent to which low-income citizens currently receive the benefits provided by law

and required to provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves and their families. The commission shall investigate alternative methods of administration of the financing of the general assistance program to more completely, efficiently or more equitably meet the program's objectives. The commission's inquiry shall include, but not be limited to, whether the State should assume more complete responsibility for financing and administering general assistance. The commission shall make recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature, including recommended changes in the laws, administration and appropriations.

3. Staff assistance. The Department of Human Services and the Division of Community Services shall provide research, clerical and computer assistance to the commission and give unrestricted access to their records, rules, policies and data, except for those items which they are legally obligated to keep confidential.

4. Procedure of per diem. The commission shall hold an organizational meeting, called by the Chairman of the Legislative Council, within 30 days of the effective date of this Act and shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman at that meeting from any of the members.

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

1985-86

LEGISLATURE

Special Select Commission on the
Administration and Financing
of General Assistance

All Other

\$5,000

Effective September 19, 1985.
