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WINTER, 1983

A Quarterly Newsletter for Maine Women

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Inform

Published by The Maine Commission for Women

A Letter From The Editor:

Dear Inform Reader:

This Winter 1983 issue of Inform may be our last for at least this fiscal year (until July 1983). As you know, retroactive tax indexing was approved by the voters in November and goes into effect January 15, 1983. Unless the Legislature takes action shortly after it reconvenes on January 5, the Commission for Women will have to implement its pro-rata reduction in funds. In addition to severe cuts in several areas, this will mean no publication of Inform until sufficient funds are appropriated. What is finally approved by this Legislature later in this session for FY 84 and 85 will determine whether we will publish this newsletter during the next biennium.

Jeanne Bailey McGowan
Executive Director
Maine Commission for Women

IMPACT OF STATE TAX INDEXING

On November 2, 1982, voters approved indexing of the income tax. As a result of that vote and a subsequent opinion by the Maine Supreme Court, unless action is taken by the 111th Legislature before January 15, 1983, State-funded departments and agencies will face a significant reduction in funds from their current fiscal year 1983 budgets. The total amount of funds involved are: \$32 million as a result of the clause that makes indexing retroactive to January 1981, and a \$73 million loss of previously anticipated revenues. Total: \$105 million over the next 2½ years. However, because these State departments and agencies are already halfway through their current (FY '83) operating budgets the "retroactive" \$32 million will be cut over the remaining six months from January-June 1983.

The Commission for Women is extremely concerned about the impact of these cuts in programs, services and personnel, especially as it will impact women in Maine. Seventy-five percent of those served by the Bureau of Maine's Elderly are women, many living alone. Cuts in Homemaker, Child Care and family planning and family crisis programs will obviously affect women more severely. Ninety percent of those served by the Welfare, Employment and Education Training Program are women. Layoffs, reductions in hours and terminations will impact women to a greater extent because: 1) women in non-traditional jobs often have the least amount of seniority, and 2) women are the majority of the workers in traditional direct service positions where reductions are being made such as child welfare, income eligibility determination staff, teachers, etc.

This edition of Inform contains cuts identified by those large State departments most severely affected. The printing and distribution of Inform will coincide almost exactly with the reconvening of the Legislature. We hope this information is timely.

Department of Educational and Cultural Services

TOTAL FY '83 REDUCTIONS
\$13.6 MILLION

GENERAL PURPOSE AID

State Funds
\$10.4 million

These funds are the part of local school budget known as "State Share." The amount of money that each of Maine's 176 school systems will have to cut will vary from several thousand for some schools to as

Continued next page

much as \$650,000. Local municipal officials will make the final determination regarding specific cuts to their current FY 1983 budget.

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

State Funds
\$2.2 million

FUNDS FOR MAINE'S SIX VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES [VTI'S]

State Funds
\$500,000

BUREAUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES

State Funds
\$500,000

Includes Vocational Education, School Management, Instruction, Museum, Library Services, Arts and Humanities Historic Preservation and Administration.

IMPACT:

There would most likely be significant impact on municipalities in particular in programs/services and/or personnel. The funding cuts in Vocational Education and the Department of Educational and Cultural Services would mean a reduction in services to students, programs and state employee layoffs.

**This DOES NOT include \$2,631,844 million to be reduced from the University of Maine budget.

Department of Corrections

TOTAL REDUCTION
\$855,516

PROBATION, PAROLE & JUVENILE COURT INTAKE

State Funds
\$97,439

Eight layoffs, reduce travel and telephone expenses.

YOUTH CENTER

State Funds
\$209,494

Layoff 14 Training School Counselors, close two cottages.

CORRECTIONAL CENTER

State Funds
\$208,142

23 layoffs (including Central Maine Pre-Release & Charleston).

PRISON

State Funds
\$295,715

Layoff 21 positions (including 13 guards) at Maine State Prison; layoff 10 guards, and two officers at Bangor Pre-Release.

Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

TOTAL REDUCTION
\$2,607,848

Unemployment Compensation	\$ 8,825
Departmental Operations	62,497
Military & Naval Children's Home	11,167
Mental Health, Title XX	12,849
Aroostook Residential Center	18,173
Elizabeth Levinson Center	58,800
Child Mental Health	89,187
Community Mental Health	258,203
Community Mental Retardation	410,016
Pineland	635,874
Bangor Mental Health Center	496,239
Augusta Mental Health Center	546,018

These cuts include the layoff of 186 individuals.

Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services general fund appropriation for the entire FY '83 (July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983) is \$127.1 million. Of that, \$12.7 million (10%) is employee salaries and \$102.6 million (81%) funds six programs which make direct payments to clients, community agencies or health care providers.

TOTAL REDUCTION

\$ 5.8 million State Funds
4.45 million Federal Matching Funds
\$10.25 million total funds

EMPLOYEE HIRING FREEZE

State Funds	Federal Funds
\$140,000	\$100,000

Impose a hiring freeze on all general funded positions effective 1/1/83. Approximately 43 general fund lines would be vacated by June 30, 1983. Another 50 federal lines dependent on state matching could also be affected. Historically, many of these lines would be child welfare and income eligibility determination staff.

BUREAU OF MAINE'S ELDERLY

State Funds
\$160,944

It will result in the loss of such services as homemaker, transportation, and meals for more than 2,000 elderly people throughout the State. It would also reduce the administrative and direct client service capabilities of area agencies on aging and would force the closing of small meal sites.

BUREAU OF SOCIAL SERVICES

State Funds \$1,020,000

It will result in a 25% reduction of available service in the following service areas: (numbers in parentheses represents individuals affected).

Day Care (500); Family Planning (3,261); Homemaker (1,000); Nutrition/Adult Day Care (200); Transportation (1,250); Blind services (10); Deaf services (95); Residential Care of Children (82); Support Services to Child Welfare and Adult Protective Clients (125) and Family Crisis (150).

REDUCTION TO OTHER PROVIDERS

State Funds \$149,000	Federal Funds \$289,000
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A ten percent reduction in the payments made for all other services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries (except nursing home care and prescription drugs).

REGIONAL INCOME MAINTENANCE

State Funds \$68,000	Federal Funds \$68,000
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Twenty-four medical eligibility workers supported by General Funds can be eliminated effective 2/1/83 with the termination of the medically needy and catastrophic illness programs. An additional 24 positions would be eliminated which are supported with federal matching funds.

ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

State Funds \$445,000

It will reduce the availability of alcohol treatment and prevention services by 22%. Approximately 1,237 people will no longer be able to receive service. More than 40 agencies will be affected.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

State Funds \$115,000	Federal Funds \$460,000
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It will reduce the availability of vocational rehabilitation services to the physically disabled, the mentally disabled and the visually impaired by 25%.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

State Funds \$126,000

It will reduce the availability and quality of residential treatment services which currently serve over 100 foster children with emotional and behavioral problems per year. Approximately 19 children who would otherwise require this service will not be served.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

State Funds \$350,000

Reimbursement to municipalities for general assistance costs will be substantially reduced or delayed. An average of more than 8,000 people per month depend upon this program for assistance in purchasing food, shelter and medical care.

WORK INCENTIVE PROGRAM

State Funds \$37,000

It will reduce client service funds for AFDC recipients enrolled in the Welfare Employment, Education & Training Program by approximately 25%. This will eliminate supportive services for more than 50 people who will not be able to enter training programs, will reduce the number of recipients entering employment by approximately 130 and will result in a loss of AFDC savings of approximately \$12,000 in general funds.

PAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS OF MEDICAL CARE

State Funds \$659,000	Federal Funds \$1,279,000
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Terminate the Medically Needy Program

The Medically Needy Program, which provides payment for the health and medical services required by approximately 3,800 children and adults each month, would have to be terminated by February 1, 1983.

TERMINATE THE COVERAGE OF OPTIONAL GROUPS

State Funds \$450,000	Federal Funds \$874,000
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In addition to the Medically Needy, the State of Maine has elected to extend the Medicaid Program to provide payment for the services required by approximately 23,000 other individuals of limited means. The termination of the coverage of all such optional groups of individuals except nursing home residents and children in the custody of the Department would be necessary in order to attain the identified savings. More than half of those whose coverage would be terminated would be children of intact families whose income is less than 133% of the AFDC standard.

FURTHER OPTIONAL GROUPS TERMINATIONS

State Funds \$372,000	Federal Funds \$722,000
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In addition to certain federally mandated services Maine has elected to provide Medicaid payments for a number of optional services including ambulance services, mental health clinic services, psychologists' services and prescription drugs. The termination of the coverage of all such optional services (except prescription drugs required by nursing home residents) by February 1 would yield the identified savings.

Events

DATE	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	TIME AND PLACE	EVENT	COST	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:
Ongoing	NEW DIRECTIONS	122 State Street Augusta	<i>Educational Series</i> "Alcohol: Facts, Fiction, and Feelings"	\$3.50/film	Gail Mazzaro, 622-6136
January 12	Bangor Community College		Film: Dominant Cinema Achievements of Women Pioneers in Filmmaking		Mary Childers, 581-7957
January 13	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—Who Remembers Mama (displaced homemakers)		622-7131
January 19	Bangor Community College		Feminism and Film Theory		Mary Childers, 581-7957
January 21	UMPI	Kelly Commons	Business Breakfast with Judge Conrad Cyr		
January 27	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—Taking Our Bodies Back (women and health)		622-7131
February 1	YWCA, Portland	YWCA 87 Spring St., Portland	Becoming a Family Day Care Provider		Carolyn Altieri-Bernal, 772-1906
February 2	Bangor Community College		Film Practices		Mary Childers, 581-7957
February 6	Bates College	+	FEMINISM IN THE 80's Introduction & History on Feminism		Dean Celeste Branham, 784-0173
February 7	Bates College	+	Culture and Gender Images		"
February 8	Bates College	+	Different Cultural Perspectives on Feminism		"
February 9	Bates College	+	Politics and Feminism		"
February 10	Bates College	+	Careers and Gender Roles, Past and Future		"
February 10	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—We All Have Our Reasons (alcohol abuse)		622-7131
February 11	Bates College	+	FEMINISM IN THE 80's Address by Susan Sontag		Dean Celeste Branham, 784-0173
February 11	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA Lewiston/ Auburn Center	Dealing With Self Behavior—a workshop	FREE	622-7131 or 784-7366 ext. 27/28
February 12	Bates College	+	FEMINISM IN THE 80's Living Alternatives		Dean Celeste Branham 784-0173
February 13	Bates College	+	Dimensions of Black Feminism		"
February 13	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/ Augusta	Dealing With Self Behavior—a workshop	FREE	622-7131
February 16	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/ Augusta 7-9:00 PM	Basic Financial Planning for Women	FREE	622-7131
February 24	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—Maturing Women		622-7131
March 8	Displaced Homemaker Project	Auburn YWCA all day	Where Do I Go From Here? workshop on women considering work	\$7.00	622-7131 or 784-7366, ext. 27/28

Events

DATE	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	TIME AND PLACE	EVENT	COST	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:
March 8	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/Lewiston/ Auburn Ctr. 12-1:30 PM	Resume Writing—2-part workshop	FREE	622-7131 or 784-7366, ext. 27/28
March 8	YWCA—Portland	YWCA 87 Spring St., Portland	Medical Consequences of Nuclear Weapons & War	FREE	Carolyn Altieri-Bernal, 772-1906
March 10	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/Augusta 5:30-7 PM	Resume Writing—2-part workshop	FREE	622-7131
March 10 & 11	Department of Educational & Cultural Services	Ramada Inn, Portland (Congress St.)	Equity & Excellence in Administration: "The Role of the Principal"	(free to public schools)	Jane Riley, 289-2796
March 10	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—Anonymous Was a Woman (women, history, arts)		622-7131
March 15	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/Agusta 7:00-9:00 PM	Dual Career Families workshop	FREE	622-7131
March 16	Maine State Nurses Association	State House	MSNA Nurses Day in the Legislature		622-1057
March 22	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/Lewiston-Auburn Ctr., 12-1:30 PM	Interviewing Skills	FREE	622-7131 or 784-7366, ext. 27/28
March 24	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/Augusta 5:30-7 PM	Interviewing Skills	FREE	622-7131
March 24	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—Wilmar 8 women, labor force		622-7131
April 4 & 5	UMO, Women's Center		Women & Health		Kathy Holbrook, 581-7957
April 7	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—We Will Not Be Beaten (battered women)		622-7131
April 15	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/Augusta all day	Careers Conference for Women	\$5.00	622-7131
April 17	UM/Fort Kent	Cyr Hall, Auditorium 8:00 PM	Spring Concert		Charles Closser, 834-3162
April 21	Displaced Homemaker Project	*	Film: Women's Lives Series—Annapurna Mountain climbing expedition, all women.		622-7131
April 25	Displaced Homemaker Project	UMA/Lewiston-Auburn Ctr., 12-1 PM	Communication Skills workshop	FREE	622-7131 or 784-7366, ext. 27/28

KEY

*Displaced Homemakers present a film series for and about Women's Lives. These films are shown on the dates indicated at: Room 293, Jewett Hall, UMA 11:30 AM (bring your lunch) and at 7:00 PM at the Auditorium in Jewett Hall, UMA, Augusta. There is no charge. For further information call 622-7131, ext. 334.

+ Various students' groups at Bates College are sponsoring FEMINISM IN THE 80's. This is a week-long series of events. Each date indicated lists only the topic for that day. Under each topic there are at least 4 events occurring. Some of the topics to be covered are: Women and the Graphic Arts; Domestic Violence; Pornography; Rock Music and Gender Images; plus movies, presentations, dinner discussions, and one-act plays. For detailed information contact Dean Celeste Branham at 784-0173.

REDUCTION IN MEDICAID PAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL SERVICES

State Funds	Federal Funds
\$339,000	\$658,000

A ten percent reduction in the payments made for the hospital services provided after February 1 would yield the identified savings.

COMMUNITY FAMILY PLANNING

State Funds
\$57,000

The current budget appropriation contains approximately \$57,000 which is not needed to replace declining federal support for this program in FY 1983.

LOW COST DRUGS FOR THE ELDERLY

State Funds
\$260,000

Many of the 23,000 elderly individuals now covered under the program would no longer receive this assistance.

CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS PROGRAM

State Funds
\$25,000

The termination of this program, which now serves approximately 90 individuals would not yield any savings. However, the termination of the Medically Needy Program and 11,000 individuals the State until now elected to cover under the Medicaid Program would make the termination of the Catastrophic Illness Program imperative.

STATE SUPPLEMENT TO FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY

State Funds
\$1,000,000

This proposed reduction would have no impact on this program. The projected surplus is due to a reduction in State supplemental payments to the general government and the closing of several boarding homes.

STATE ERA UNDERWAY

The Maine State ERA Steering Committee¹ has met and developed both an organizational structure and an action plan for passage of a State ERA during the current 111th Legislature. The bill which states "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged in this State because of the sex of the individual" is based on the wording from the Pennsylvania State ERA, one of the 16 states which have State ERA's.²

The bill, sponsored by Senator Nancy Clark, House Majority Leader Libby Mitchell, President of the Senate Gerard Conley and Representative Tom Murphy, has Governor Brennan's full and active support and is part of his legislative package for this session.

The Steering Committee has organized itself into four working sub-committees: Legislative, Stephanie Smith, Chairperson; Research, Sue McPherson, Chairperson; Finance, Shannon Eaton, Chairperson; and Public Information; & Organizations, co-chaired by Anne Gosline and Nancy Adams. Work by the sub-committees has focused primarily on passage by the Legislature with some long-range plans for the vote through public referendum. There was a nearly successful effort to have the State ERA bill printed as L.D. #1. However, emergency legislation passed on December 1, 1982 by the new legislature made that impossible. The bill has been drafted and will be sent to print soon. Under a new rules change, the bill could be referred to a joint House/Senate Committee by mid-January. Depending on what other issues the Legislature must face immediately (especially tax indexing), the public hearing could be anywhere from mid-January to mid-February.

The bill, because it is a constitutional amendment, must be approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ of both the House and the Senate. Assuming it is passed, it must then go to public referendum. It is not yet clear whether that would happen in November 1983 or 1984.

Anyone interested in working for a State ERA is urged to contact the Steering Committee at 289-3418.

¹AFL-CIO

Business and Professional Women's Clubs
Common Cause
Democratic (State) Party
League of Women Voters
Maine Civil Liberties Union
Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ
Maine Commission for Women
Maine State Employees Assn.
Maine State Nurses Assn.
Maine Teachers' Assn.
Maine Women's Lobby
National Organization for Women
YWCA

*Organizations invited to join the Steering Committee but who have not yet responded include:

Republican (State) Party
American Association of University Women
Advisory Council on Women Religious
Union Mutual
Associated Industries of Maine (AIM)
National Council of Jewish Women
Maine Association of Handicapped Persons

²Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

The Feminist Press has just published the "Everywoman's Guide to Colleges and Universities." It rates nearly 600 institutions by such categories as Women in Leadership Positions, Women and the Curriculum, Women and Athletics, as well as listing information regarding access to public transportation, child-care facilities, and housing. Anyone interested in obtaining more information should contact: The Feminist Press, Box 334, Old Westbury, New York 11568, or call 516/997-7660.

SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON PREGNANCY BENEFITS

[The following is an excerpt from an article written by Jim Mann, of the Los Angeles Times published Tuesday, December 7, 1982 in the Boston Globe.]

"The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to decide whether it is illegal for a company to limit pregnancy and maternity benefits for the wives of male employees.

The court will hear a Virginia case that forces the justices to determine the scope of the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act—a law that required businesses to treat pregnancy and childbirth like any other form of disability for purposes of health insurance and other employee benefits.

The US Chamber of Commerce and a number of individual companies have contended that the law applies only to female employees, not to the wives or other female-dependents of male employees. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, labor unions and individual workers have argued that the law applies to both female workers and dependents of the male workers.

The court will rule on a dispute involving the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. Until 1978, the company's health insurance paid only \$500 toward hospital room costs for pregnancy and childbirth, although the plan paid in full for up to 120 days in the hospital for all other medical problems and conditions.

After Congress passed the 1978 pregnancy law, the Newport company changed its insurance plan to pay in full for the hospital costs of women employees who became pregnant, but continued to apply the \$500 limit on benefits for employees' wives. A worker named John McNulty, the United Steelworkers of America and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission contested the company's authority to do this.

The justices will hear arguments in the case (Newport News vs. EEOC, 82-411) next April and will probably issue a decision in June or early July.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act bars employers from discriminating on the basis of sex. The Supreme Court decided six years ago that it is not illegal sex discrimi-

nation for a business to treat pregnancy and childbirth differently from other kinds of medical disabilities.

In 1978, Congress effectively overturned this Supreme Court decision by passing the Pregnancy Discrimination Act. The law specifically defined sex discrimination so as to cover "pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions."

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATION ON PREGNANCY, HEALTH & ALCOHOL

According to the New Hampshire Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention's quarterly newsletter, "Another piece of legislation (in New Hampshire) under discussion would require a health warning on the labels of containers of certain alcoholic beverages. The label would state, 'Caution: The Surgeon General has determined that consumption of alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects. Alcohol can also impair driving ability, create dependency or addiction and contribute to other health hazards.' "

CAREER RESOURCE CENTER NEWS:

Application forms for the Bath Iron Works Corporation Apprenticeship Program are now available at the Career Resource Center at the University of Maine at Augusta. Opportunities exist in the following trades:

Machinists	Fabricators
Outside Machinists	Pipefitters
Sheet Metal Mechanics	Maintenance Mechanics
Electricians	Carpenters
Shipfitters	

Job descriptions, applicable to the above-mentioned trades, will be provided upon request, to insure applicants an understanding of the duties, interest areas, and training involved.

If you will be 18 prior to August 15, 1983; have 2 years of Algebra or 1 year of Algebra and 1 year of Geometry; high school diploma or equivalent, and are interested in the **Bath Plant Only**—stop by the CRC for an application. Application period is January 24 through January 28.

PUBLICATION UPDATES EMPLOYER SUPPORTED CHILD CARE

Changes in tax law affecting child care services, the growing number of employers supporting such services, and the increased variety of care programs across the United States are featured in an updated publication by the Women's Bureau.

"Employers and Child Care: Establishing Services Through the Workplace" explains employer benefits from programs that support working parents, subsidies for child care, personnel policies, donations to community programs, and the actual planning and funding of a child care service.

A limited number of single copies of the 83-page pamphlet are available free from the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210. Send a self-addressed mailing label with request. The publication is also for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, at \$5.50.

1983 WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK

The Commission for Women would like to hear from any and all individuals/organizations who are planning events for Women's History Week, March 6-12, 1983. We hope to compile this information and perhaps print a

listing of all events across the State. If you have events planned, please contact the Commission (289-3417 or State House Station #93, Augusta, ME 04333) by February 1, 1983 AT THE LATEST!

SPECIAL THANKS!

Special thanks and commendations to the Maine AFL-CIO and Maine N.O.W. for including an ERA question in their survey of legislative candidates earlier this year and for sharing that information with this office.

And further thanks to Bob Willoughby and his workers at the sheltered workshop at the Augusta Mental Health Institute who did a great job of labeling and zip code sorting our newsletter. This service (and others) is available to all organizations at better than reasonable rates. For further information call Bob Willoughby at 622-3751, ext 345.

Members of the Maine Commission for Women:

Annette Ross Anderson, Portland
F. Celeste Branham, Lewiston
Caroline Gentile, Presque Isle
Evelyn Greenlaw, Lewiston
Barbara Hamaluk, Bangor
Elizabeth Hoglund, Portland

Ruth Joseph, Waterville
Bonnie Lee Keller, Gray
Virginia Lane, Lincoln
Marilyn Mavrinac, Waterville
Julie Motherwell, Falmouth
Joan Pinette, Bangor

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MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
STATE HOUSE STATION 93
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