MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	FIRST REGULAR SESSION			
	ONE HUNDRED	AND ELEVEN	TH LEGISLATURE	
Legislativ	ve Document		No. 456	
H.P. 373		House of	Representatives, February 1, 1983	
Committee	e on Appropriation		February 1, 1983. Referred to the Affairs, and ordered printed	
pursuant t	to Joint Rule 14.		EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk	
Cospo	by Representative onsors: Representa and Representative	tive Hobbins of	Saco, Representative Joyce of	
		STATE OF MA	INE	
		HE YEAR OF (OUR LORD EIGHTY-THREE	
		rovide Funds l Services I	s to an Elderly Program.	
Be it e follows		e People of	the State of Maine as	
Sec read:	2. 1. 22 MR	SA §5106, s	sub-§11-A is enacted to	
maintai ment wi of Mai	n an Elderly th such nonp ne's Elderly	Legal Servi rofit organi finds best	es Program. Support and ices Program, by agree-ization as the Bureau able to provide direct lderly in greatest eco-	
	and social ne	ed throughou	it the State.	
appropr		the General	e following funds are I Fund to carry out the	

1		1983-84	1984-85
2	HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
3	Elderly Legal Services		
4	Personal Services	\$29,250	\$32,000
5	All Other	5,000	5,000
6	Total:	\$34,250	\$37,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

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Maine's elderly, both in the community and in institutions, face unique legal problems: To secure public entitlement benefits, needed medical services, to defend against financial exploitation and the imposition of unnecessary guardianships and conservatorships, to prevent involuntary discharge from long-term care facilities and to interpret complex federal regulations and policies.

The need for legal services is growing as federal agencies have become more restrictive in eligibility, as regulations and policies change and as the older population continues to grow as a greater percentage of our population. Funding available to fund legal services for the elderly has not increased as the needs have increased and, is in fact, in jeopardy of being reduced.

This bill provides revenue to maintain legal services for the elderly at the same level and replaces the reduction in federal funds. Legal Services for the Elderly, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation approximately 1,500 individuals annually. These funds provide for one attorney who focuses legal needs of the institutionalized elderly, one legal and funds for support, such transporation and office space.

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