

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2164**

S. P. 754

In Senate, January 2, 1974

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Brennan of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FOUR

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**AN ACT Providing Funds to Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., for Continued  
Legal Representations for those Unable to Afford such Representation.**

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

Whereas, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., has provided free legal representation to over 50,000 people in Maine unable to afford such representation during its 6-year existence; and

Whereas, this important service has been performed without cost to the people of Maine; and

Whereas, the amount of funding available to Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., has not kept pace with inflationary increases in personnel and operating costs, forcing a reduction of offices and staff available to provide legal representation to those in need of it but unable to afford it; and

Whereas, without additional funds further reductions in service will occur; and

Whereas, this reduction in service increases the inability of many persons to make use of their constitutionally guaranteed access to the legal system for resolution to their problems; and

Whereas, it is hoped that the Legislature will find and declare its intent to assure adequate legal representation for those persons unable to afford it by

restoring the level of services provided by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., to that which existed before its reductions due to inflation occurred; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**Sec. 1. Appropriation.** There is appropriated to Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., from the General Fund the sum of \$165,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, to carry out the purposes of the corporation in providing legal representation of persons unable to afford such representation.

**Sec. 2. Effective date.** This Act shall become effective July 1, 1974.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect July 1, 1974.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.