

# ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

### Legislative Document

### No. 1123

S. P. 338

In Senate, March 24, 1977

Referred to Committee on Human Resources. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

## STATE OF MAINE

#### IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Appropriating Funds to Provide Services to Older Blind Persons to Assist them in Remaining in their Own Homes and in Caring for Themselves.

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services, Division of Eye Care, for the fiscal year 1977-78 the sum of \$40,000, which shall be used to contract for services for older blind persons in order to assist them in remaining in their own homes and in caring for themselves. The breakdown shall be as follows:

#### HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Division of Eye Care Personal Services All Other

(3) \$30,000 10,000

\$40,000

1977-78

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Services for the blind are aimed at enabling older blind and other severely visually handicapped individuals to care for themselves, to communicate with others, to get around and to maintain their independence and self-sufficiency. As a result of receiving services provided by funds under this bill, it is anticipated that blind individuals will be able to remain in their own homes and to care for themselves rather than being institutionalized or dependent on others for care.

Eligible persons for services to the blind are those older persons who have a severe visual impairment and who need to more independently manage their own homes or communicate.