

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

**Legislative Document**

**No. 946**

S. P. 316

In Senate, March 5, 1979

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

Presented by Senator Clark of Cumberland.

Cosponsors: Senators Minkowsky of Androscoggin, Conley of Cumberland and Najarian of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Appropriate Funds for Emergency Shelters and Services for Victims  
of Domestic Violence.**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1677 is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 1677**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR  
VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE**

**§ 8501. Provision of services**

The Department of Human Services shall provide, through social service contracts, emergency services for family members who cannot safely remain in their own homes because of violence, serious threat of violence or other serious family crisis. The emergency services shall include such services as shelter care, counseling and coordinating other necessary services.

The department shall make these services available to all areas of the State insofar as practicable.

**Sec. 2. Report.** The Bureau of Resource Development shall report to the Second Regular Session of the 109th Legislature on the progress of establishing shelters pursuant to this chapter. This report shall include statistics on shelter costs, usage and services, as well as the coordination of shelter services with child and adult protective services.

**Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1979-80**

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Resources Development

Victims of Family Violence

All Other

**\$400,000**

These funds shall only be applied to contracts for services under Title 22, section 8501. Any balance of funds in this account on June 30, 1980 shall not lapse but shall be carried forward in fiscal year 1981 to be expended for the same purpose.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

This bill establishes a program for the Department of Human Services to provide, through social service contracts, emergency services for family members who cannot safely remain in their own homes because of violence, serious threat of violence or other serious family crisis. The emergency services include such services as shelter care, counseling and coordinating other necessary services.

The bill also provides that the department shall make these services available to all areas of the State insofar as practicable.