

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1410

S. P. 464

In Senate, March 26, 1979

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

Presented by Senator D. Huber of Cumberland.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Appropriating Funds for Abortion Procedures for Persons Otherwise Eligible Under Medicaid and to Effect Substantial Savings in the Costs of Government Services.

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

Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Medical Care Services		
All Other	\$180,000	\$190,000

To provide funds for abortion procedures for persons otherwise eligible for medical assistance under the United States Social Security Act, Title XIX.

Sec. 2. Legislative Intent. The Legislature finds that access to a legal abortion procedure should not be denied to those who seek such a procedure and for whom such a procedure is medically indicated in the opinion of any doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy duly licensed to practice his profession in this State solely because of poverty.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Present administrative policies in fact deny access to abortion procedures to some women solely because they are poor. It has been estimated that there are approximately 600 low-income women per year for whom abortion procedures are indicated in mutual decision between the woman and her physician. State funds would be required in the amount of approximately \$180,000 per year for these procedures. If these funds are not provided, delivery costs would be about \$1,200,000 and, assuming that mother and child were eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps and Medicaid, annual costs for these services would be approximately \$2,700,000 in the first year.

The primary justification for this appropriation is to allow voluntary self-determination in a serious family decision, regardless of income. It would also cause savings amounting to at least \$4,000,000 per year in the escalating costs of government services.