

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 569

S. P. 202

In Senate, February 2, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

Cosponsors: Representative Kelleher of Bangor and Representative J. Mitchell of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Continue the Provision of Funding the Telecommunication Services for the Hearing Impaired.

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

Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1981-82	1982-83
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$13,500	\$8,000

These funds are to be used to carry out the purposes of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 961, in preserving and maintaining the statewide telephone relay, repair, maintenance and loan program for the hearing impaired who must rely on teletypewriter equipment in order to engage in telephone com-

munications. Of the amount appropriated for the 2 fiscal years, \$5,000 is intended to be used for the costs of maintenance, repair and training.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The statewide telecommunications for the hearing impaired program will lose its current state funding at the end of the fiscal year 1980-81. Without the telephone relay and other services, the hearing impaired people may lack a primary and effective means of obtaining fire, police, medical and other emergency services, obtaining information about and access to government programs and services and communicating generally with the rest of society. The 1981-82 and 1982-83 appropriation of \$21,500 is intended to continue the present statewide program for the hearing impaired at the present level under the administration of the Department of Human Services.