## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied (searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

	SECOND REGULAR SESSION
ONE HUI	NDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Legislative Docume	ent No. 2020
H.P. 1535	House of Representatives, January 31, 1984
Approved for intRule 26.	troduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint
	Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs is d printed.
20	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerl
	ntative Bell of Paris. presentative Mitchell of Vassalboro, Representative Davis prator Najarian of Cumberland.
	STATE OF MAINE
	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINE.	TEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
AN AC	f to Fund Rape Crisis Centers.
Be it enacted be follows:	by the People of the State of Maine as
Sec. 1. 22	2 MRSA c. 269 is enacted to read:
	CHAPTER 269
	RAPE CRISIS CENTERS
§1661. Legisla	ative intent
sault are cri	lature finds that rape and sexual as- imes of violence that are both
	and increasing in incidence; that vic- eed support services and counseling
	ntly unavailable from traditional medi-
cal or legal :	institutions; that the recent formation
	egional rape crisis centers has pro- nd sexual assault victims with vital

- counseling and intervention services; and that the volunteer efforts of these and future rape crisis centers shall be supported and enhanced on a state-wide basis, if possible. The Legislature declares that it is consistent with public policy to fund counseling and preventive educational programs by rape crisis centers.
- 8 §1662. Funds
- 9 <u>1. Purposes. The Department of Human Services</u>
  10 may receive and disburse funds made available to it
  11 for financial support grants to rape crisis centers
  12 for the following purposes:
- A. Direct crisis intervention counseling of rape and sexual assault victims;
- B. Programs to support a sexual assault victim's interaction with medical and legal professionals;
- 17 C. Programs to advocate and work with the sexual
  18 assault victim throughout the court process, but
  19 not to provide legal services; and
- D. Programs to educate and train the public on rape and sexual assault prevention.
- 22 <u>2. Geographic coverage. Insofar as practicable,</u>
  23 <u>the department shall make funds available to all ar-</u>
  24 <u>eas of the State.</u>
- 25 3. Local match. Any rape crisis center which 26 applies for funds under this chapter shall demon-27 strate a match of either private donations or in-kind 28 services equal to 100% of the grant request from the 29 department.
- 30 §1663. Rules

The Commissioner of Human Services is authorized and directed to adopt rules to implement this chapter to reflect widely accepted and current services which are presently provided. The commissioner shall consult with organizations who counsel rape victims, and shall make recommended allocations from the Maine Coalition on Rape.

## §1664. Lapse

Funds made available to the department for the purposes of this chapter, whether from state, federal or private sources, shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year to be expended for the same purposes.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

10 <u>1984-85</u>

## HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

12 Bureau of Health

13 All Other \$100,000

## 14 STATEMENT OF FACT

The 1983 Maine Crime Index indicates that reported rapes in the State for the first 6 months have
increased by 82.4% over the previous year. Even this
statistic is deceiving because it is estimated that
only 10% of the actual rapes are reported.

Rape is a pervasive problem in Maine. Currently, there are 7 rape crisis centers which are located in Farmington, Bangor, Lewiston, Norway-South Paris, Bath-Brunswick, Waterville and Portland. These centers are operated by volunteers and assist rape victims with referral and counseling.

Currently, the total program expenses are \$339,835 while the total money raised by programs is \$239,835. Therefore, a \$100,000 appropriation is needed to meet the programs' expenses. This bill provides \$100,000 to existing rape crisis centers and stimulates the establishment of a center in the northern part of the State. These funds will provide:

1. Direct crisis intervention counseling;

2. Accompanying victims to medical examination
 and police interviews;

3 4 5

- 3. Advocacy and working with victims throughout the court process, but not the provision of legal services; and
- 4. Public outreach and training programs on rapeprevention.

8 5017011184