

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)

1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1315
6

7 S.P. 487

In Senate, April 16, 1985

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

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Najarian of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsored by Representative McGowan of Canaan, Representative
Reeves of Pittston and Senator Clark of Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Fund Community Response
18 Programs to Reduce Spouse Abuse in
19 Maine Communities.
20

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

23 Appropriation. The following funds are appropri-
24 ated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes
25 of this Act.

| | <u>1985-86</u> | <u>1986-87</u> |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 26 | | |
| 27 | <u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u> | |
| 28 | All Other | \$250,000 \$250,000 |
| 29 | (to contract | |
| 30 | with Maine Coa- | |
| 31 | lition for Fami- | |
| 32 | ly Crisis Ser- | |
| 33 | vices) to pro- | |

1 This bill provides for the implementation of the
2 first stage of the Community Response Program in all
3 regions of the State and will establish the 2nd stage
4 as a pilot project in the 3 regions of the State
5 which have already completed stage one.

6 The first stage of the Community Response Program
7 is the provision of a full-time Community Response
8 Coordinator for each member agency of the coalition.
9 This coordinator provides the initiative, leadership
10 and staff required to identify obstacles to enforce-
11 ment on a local and regional level and to develop and
12 implement a coordinated strategy by the criminal jus-
13 tice system and other community agencies to overcome
14 them.

15 As a group, the coordinators will provide the co-
16 alition with the initiative, leadership and staff re-
17 quired to identify the statewide obstacles to en-
18 forcement and to develop and coordinate a statewide
19 strategy among the criminal justice system and other
20 community agencies to overcome them.

21 The 2nd stage of the Community Response Program
22 is the provision of new, specialized law enforcement
23 services developed by the coalition for both the vic-
24 tims of spouse abuse and the agencies of the criminal
25 justice system which can overcome specific obstacles
26 to enforcement which have been identified in stage
27 one.

28 For the victim, these law enforcement services
29 include on-call on-scene victim-witness advocacy from
30 immediate post assault response through all phases of
31 enforcement and prosecution, including short-term and
32 long-term follow up and specialized, structured edu-
33 cational services focusing on overcoming the damage
34 of the crime and increasing participation in enforce-
35 ment and prosecution.

36 For the criminal justice system, these services
37 include on-call on-scene victim-witness advocacy ser-
38 vices to police departments on spouse abuse complaint
39 responses; victim-witness advocacy for prosecutors;
40 monitoring, follow-up and perpetrator education and
41 training for probationers; ongoing, specialized
42 training; and on-call consultation and support for
43 all branches of the criminal justice system.

1 Three member agencies of the coalition will use
2 funds from this appropriation to pay for the person-
3 nel and support necessary to provide these new law
4 enforcement services in pilot jurisdictions within
5 their service areas. These agencies are: The Family
6 Violence Project in Augusta, serving Kennebec and
7 Somerset Counties; the Family Crisis Shelter in Port-
8 land, serving Cumberland County; and Caring Unlimited
9 in Saco, serving York County. The 4-county region
10 served by these programs accounts for 50% of the re-
11 ports of the crime of spouse abuse to state police
12 agencies.

13 These 3-member agencies will also use funds from
14 this appropriation to provide training and technical
15 assistance in these law enforcement services to the
16 remaining 6-member agencies of the coalition in an
17 amount sufficient to insure coordination of its
18 statewide program.

19 This bill provides funding to establish 12 paid
20 positions and a minimum of 21 trained and supervised
21 volunteer positions at a cost of \$193,200 in Personal
22 Services and \$56,800 in All Other costs.

23

1907032885