

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1742

6 H.P. 1233

House of Representatives, December 27, 1985

7 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council  
8 pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

9 Received by the Clerk of the House on December 27, 1985. Referred to  
10 the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and 1,600 ordered  
printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Lisnik of Presque Isle.

11 Cosponsored by Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake, Senator Carpenter of  
Aroostook and Senator McBreairty of Aroostook.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Fund Elderly Legal Services in  
18 Northern and Eastern Maine  
19 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.

26

1986-87

27

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, INC.

28

Personal Services

\$27,750

29

All Other

9,250

30

Total

\$37,000

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2           Legal Services for the Elderly, Inc. provides a  
3 full range of civil legal services to persons over 60  
4 years of age throughout the State. By focusing ser-  
5 vices on priority areas such as Social Security, SSI,  
6 Medicare and Medicaid; protection of elders from  
7 abuse and exploitation; and assuring respect for  
8 seniors's rights in long-term care settings, Legal  
9 Services for the Elderly, Inc. protects the rights of  
10 Maine's most vulnerable citizens.

11           Currently, all of Northern and Eastern Maine,  
12 Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock and Wash-  
13 ington Counties, are served by a single attorney in  
14 the Bangor office of the Legal Services for the El-  
15 derly, Inc at the Eastern Area Agency on Aging. Al-  
16 though assisted by 2 part-time paralegals in  
17 Aroostook County, the area is simply too large for  
18 effective legal services to be provided in outlying  
19 counties.

20           Approximately 420 clients otherwise deprived of  
21 representation in Maine's most isolated counties  
22 would be served by the additional attorney and sup-  
23 portive assistance provided for by this bill.

24

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