

# 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)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 302

H.P. 234 House of Representatives, February 6, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and  
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative LISNIK of Presque Isle.  
Cosponsored by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Fund Increased Insurance Costs,  
2 Children's Programs, Rural Outreach  
3 Programs and Minimal Standard  
4 Requirements in the 9 Member  
5 Agencies of the Maine Coalition for  
6 Family Crisis Services.  
7

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

10 Appropriation. The following funds are appropri-  
11 ated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes  
12 of this Act.

13		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
14	<u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>		
15	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>		

1

All Other

\$355,000

\$390,500

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40

Funds are to provide funding, in the amount of \$25,000, for the fiscal year 1987-88, for the purpose of payment of the increased professional and general liability insurance and fire insurance expenses of the 9 member agencies of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services; to provide funding, in the amount of \$60,000, for the fiscal year 1987-88, for the purpose of increasing children's advocacy and counseling programs in the 9 member agencies of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services; to provide funding, in the amount of \$135,00, for the fiscal year of 1987-88, for the purpose of maintaining newly established outreach offices in underserved communities of the State; and to provide funding, in the amount of \$135,000, for the fiscal year 1987-88, for the purpose of meeting minimal standard requirements in the 9 member agencies of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2           There are 9 battered women's projects in the  
3 State. Six of those have shelter and 3 provide safe  
4 home networks. These agencies serve battered women  
5 and children in all 16 counties in the State and pro-  
6 vide emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis hot lines,  
7 counseling, advocacy, information and referral and  
8 community education.

9           During the fiscal year of 1985-86, each member  
10 agency of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Ser-  
11 vices was faced with rising liability and fire insur-  
12 ance costs, despite the fact that no claims have ever  
13 been made against any of their policies. In most  
14 cases, the increased costs were over 400% and are ex-  
15 pected to further increase during the upcoming years.  
16 Current levels of funding do not allow for these dra-  
17 matic increases.

18           During the fiscal year of 1985-86, the 9 member  
19 agencies of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis  
20 Services established children's programs to reduce  
21 the devastating effect domestic violence has upon the  
22 children of these households. Studies by the Univer-  
23 sity of New Hampshire have shown that children living  
24 in an abusive environment have an 85% greater tenden-  
25 cy to grow up to be abusers of victims of abuse, and  
26 that in 13% of spouse abuse cases, the children have  
27 also been assaulted.

28           During the past year, 889 children were sheltered  
29 throughout the State for a total of 8,434 bed days.  
30 Several hundred more were served outside of the shel-  
31 ter through individual counseling, support groups and  
32 other services. At the present time, there are 6  
33 full-time and 3 part-time workers providing this ser-  
34 vice across the State. Funds from this bill would  
35 allow for the 3 part-time workers in the Rockland,  
36 Machias and Dover-Foxcroft agencies to be full-time  
37 workers and to pay for the fringe benefits of all 9  
38 workers.

39           Outreach programs have been established in  
40 Houlton, Calais, Milo, Dexter, Ellsworth, Belfast,  
41 Waldoboro, Skowhegan, Farmington, Brunswick, Windham,

1 and the Saint John Valley during the 1985-86 fiscal  
2 year. These efforts were initiated by the 9 member  
3 agencies of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis  
4 Services to better serve battered women and children  
5 in previously underserved areas of the State. These  
6 efforts were made possible by a grant from the Feder-  
7 al Government for the expansion of domestic violence  
8 services and funds will not be forthcoming to main-  
9 tain these services in the future. In all cases, the  
10 outreach offices have been successful in reaching  
11 battered women. In Houlton alone, the satellite of-  
12 fice served over 100 abused women and children in a  
13 4-month period. It is the purpose of this bill to  
14 support the outreach programs and the increased costs  
15 associated with these programs.

16 The 9 member agencies of the Maine Coalition for  
17 Family Crisis Services fall short in meeting the min-  
18 imal standards for staffing, salary and fringe bene-  
19 fits requirements. In some shelter programs, 3 staff  
20 members have the entire responsibility of maintaining  
21 the 24-hour emergency shelter service. Most staff  
22 positions are paid less than \$6 and \$5 an hour for  
23 responsibilities which involve a high degree of  
24 stress and physical danger. Some agencies cannot af-  
25 ford to pay health insurance or unemployment insur-  
26 ance benefits for any of its positions.

27

1766011287