

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. 623

S.P. 229 In Senate, March 9, 1987
Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative
Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial
Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland

Cosponsored by Representative JOSEPH of Waterville, Senator
BLACK of Cumberland, Representative SCARPINO of St. George

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Enhance and Expand Services
2 Provided to Victims of Sexual Assault.
3

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

6 Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are
7 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
8 purposes of this Act.

9 1987-88 1988-89

10 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT
11 OF

12 Bureau of Social Ser-
13 vices: Purchased Ser-
14 vices

1	All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
2	These funds are to		
3	be used for rape		
4	crisis centers for		
5	expanded staff		
6	hours; rental of of-		
7	fice space;		
8	toll-free hotlines		
9	for victims; and ad-		
10	ministrative and		
11	training materials.		

12 STATEMENT OF FACT

13 The rape crisis centers in Maine were organized
14 at the grass-roots level in response to the needs of
15 Maine citizens. Until 1982, there were only 2 rape
16 crisis centers in the State, one in Portland and one
17 in Bangor. By the fall of 1986, there were 9 cen-
18 ters, networking statewide for advocacy and organiza-
19 tion through the Maine Coalition on Rape.

20 Each center operates primarily through the use of
21 trained volunteer counselors. The time donated by
22 volunteers alone, computed at minimum wage, consti-
23 tutes a contribution in excess of \$250,000 annually.
24 From 1983 to 1986, the existing centers responded to
25 6,027 informational phone calls, 2,093 crisis calls
26 and 1,977 victims of sexual assault.

27 The centers were developed for the purpose of re-
28 sponding to the problem of sexual violence in our so-
29 ciety. Their major focus is divided into 2 areas.
30 Through public education and legislative activity,
31 the centers strive to eradicate the crimes of rape
32 and incest. They also work to alleviate the suffer-
33 ing of the victims of sexual assault, returning to
34 them a sense of control and empowerment. This is ac-
35 complished by assisting victims in their recovery,
36 both physical and emotional through crisis interven-
37 tion; by encouraging the legal prosecution of
38 perpetrators; and by becoming advocates for the vic-
39 tim in the court procedure.

1 It is the intent of this bill to provide funds to
2 adequately staff and operate the existing rape crisis
3 centers in Aroostook County; Augusta; Bangor; Bath
4 and Brunswick; Farmington; Lewiston; Norway and South
5 Paris; Portland; Presque Isle; and Waterville. The
6 funds in this bill will also be used to establish a
7 10th rape crisis center in the Ellsworth area.
8 Bangor Rape Crisis Center, being the oldest and best
9 known of the centers, has accumulated such a large
10 clientele, it is necessary to reallocate that geo-
11 graphic area in order to insure continuation of qual-
12 ity services to victims.

13

0742021487