# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## SECOND REGULAR SESSION

#### ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

# Legislative Document

NO. 2112

H.P. 1552

House of Representatives, January 21, 1988

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

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

Cosponsored by Representatives SMITH of Island Falls,
LISNIK of Presque Isle and Senator LUDWIG of Aroostook.

### STATE OF MAINE

# IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

AN ACT to Increase Funding of Elderly Legal

3	Services.
4 5	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
6 7 8	Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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1	<u>1988-89</u>	
2 3	LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, INCORPORATED	
4 5	Personal Services \$42,900 All Other 1,600	
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	These funds will be used to maintain the Advocates for Medicare Patients Program, which provides assistance in securing federal benefits to elderly Medicare recipients and to continue the distribution of educational materials.	
19	STATEMENT OF FACT	
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	Legal Services for the Elderly received a federal grant of \$32,000 in October 1986 to create an innovative method for delivery of elderly legal services in rural northern and eastern Maine. The federal grant ends in February 1988 and the requested appropriation would assure continued service to the needy, difficult-to-reach population which was the focus of the grant.	
28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35	Legal Services for the Elderly, in the course of its federal grant work, has developed innovative client educational materials and self-help packages which are effective in preventing the need for more intensive legal services in the future. This appropriation will allow much greater publicity about and distribution of these materials throughout the rest of the State.	

Legal Services for the Elderly has had a highly successful first year with its Advocates for Medicare Patients Program. Over 300 Medicare appeals are now pending across the State to challenge the very narrow 5 way in which Medicare determines what services it will reimburse. Preliminary results show this program to be extremely cost effective in securing the benefits ٠6 7 8 of federal insurance upon which the elderly rely. 9 This appropriation will enable the program to secure 10 the supportive services which are vitally needed to 11 continue its very effective work.

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