

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1211

S.P. 449

In Senate, April 18, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

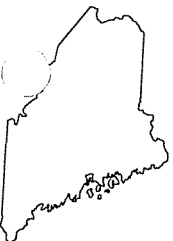
Cosponsored by Senator PERKINS of Hancock, Representative CHONKO of Topsham and Representative FOSTER of Ellsworth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Maintain Legal Services for Low-income Citizens.

(EMERGENCY)



1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
3 as emergencies; and

5 **Whereas,** federal funding through the Legal Services
6 Corporation to Pine Tree Legal Assistance was cut by 28% in 1982;
7 and

9 **Whereas,** federal funding over the 7 years since that time
10 has not returned to 1981 levels and has not kept pace with costs;
11 and

13 **Whereas,** state appropriations to Pine Tree Legal Assistance
14 have not increased since 1985 yet provide a vital 10% of the
15 program's budget; and

17 **Whereas,** over 18% of the State's population is eligible to
18 receive free civil legal services from the 6 area offices of Pine
19 Tree Legal Assistance; and

21 **Whereas,** without the additional funds provided in this Act
22 Pine Tree Legal Assistance would be unable to continue to provide
23 its current level of services; and

25 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
26 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
27 Maine and require the following legislation as necessary for the
28 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety; now,
29 therefore,

31 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

33 **Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the
34 General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1989-90	1990-91
PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE		
Legal Assistance		
All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
Provides funds to continue the current level of civil legal services to eligible low-income individuals in all forums.		

49 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
51 preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill increases the state appropriation to Pine Tree Legal Assistance to make up a small part of the loss of federal funds since 1982, and to enable the program to continue the current level of civil legal services to eligible low-income individuals through 6 local offices.