

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1232

H.P. 888

House of Representatives, April 19, 1989

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

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

Cosponsored by Representative LISNIK of Presque Isle, Representative FOSTER of Ellsworth and Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Increase Funding of Legal Services for the Elderly.



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

3 Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the
5 General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1989-90

7 LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, INC.

9 Personal Services	\$84,440
11 All Other	14,060

13 This funding will be used to continue the
15 work successfully carried out under a
17 federal grant to Legal Services for the
19 Elderly, Inc., to provide additional
21 administrative, attorney and paralegal
staffing; to assure an adequate salary
structure; and to provide essential program
support for the positions.

23 LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, INC.

TOTAL	<u>\$98,500</u>
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27 STATEMENT OF FACT

29 Legal Services for the Elderly, Inc., or LSE, received a
31 federal grant of \$32,000 in October 1986, to create an innovative
33 method for the delivery of legal services to the elderly in rural
35 northern and eastern Maine. The federal grant, which ended in
February 1988, allowed LSE to serve an additional 400 clients in
northern and eastern Maine during the previous year. This bill
would assure continued services to the needy, difficult-to-reach
population which was the focus of the grant.

37 LSE operates a statewide program with very limited
39 administrative support provided by the program's chief attorney
41 and executive secretary. The bill would fund a program and
43 development manager, who would assist LSE to function as a more
45 effective unit, enable the program to conduct more seminars on
preventive law issues for the elderly, and develop a variety of
self-help legal materials for elderly Mainers.

47 The bill would also provide additional staffing for LSE's
49 Portland office and increase LSE's salary structure, currently
51 the lowest public interest attorney scale in the State, to near
parity with other legal assistance providers. Finally, the bill
would also fund additional travel and telephone usage, enhanced
training opportunities and other essential support for an
expanded program.