

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 658, L.D. 1734, Bill, "An Act to Increase Access to Federal Health Care Benefits"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

**Sec. 1. Authorization to expend funds.** The Department of Human Services is authorized to expend up to \$20,000 from the General Assistance -- Reimbursement to Cities and Towns account and up to \$10,000 from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children account in fiscal year 1991-92 and up to \$30,000 from the General Assistance -- Reimbursement to Cities and Towns account and \$10,000 from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children account in fiscal year 1992-93 for the purpose of reimbursing Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. and Legal Services for the Elderly, Inc. for legal work done to assist state residents who, prior to the legal work, had been receiving General Assistance or Aid to Families with Dependent Children to become qualified to receive federally funded disability benefits.

**Sec. 2. Report.** By March 1, 1992 the Department of Human Services shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources matters regarding its activities under this Act. The report must include the number of people assisted, the number who have become qualified for federal disability assistance and the estimated savings to the State.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill authorizes the Department of Human Services to use a limited amount of funds within the General Assistance and Aid to Families with Dependent Children programs for legal services. These funds would be made available through savings realized as a

2 result of recipients of those programs becoming qualified to  
3 receive federal disability benefits and no longer eligible to  
4 receive General Assistance or Aid to Families with Dependent  
5 Children benefits. Additional General Fund appropriations will  
6 be necessary for any increase in the number of individuals found  
7 eligible for these programs once the identified savings are  
8 utilized to reimburse Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. and Legal  
Services for the Elderly, Inc. for legal work.

10 The costs associated with reporting to the Legislature will  
11 be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Department of  
12 Human Services.'

14  
15 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

16 The amendment replaces the original bill. The Department of  
17 Human Services is authorized to use a limited amount of General  
18 Assistance and Aid to Families with Dependent Children funds for  
19 legal services to assist recipients of those programs to become  
20 qualified to receive federal disability benefits, thereby  
21 reducing the number of people receiving General Assistance or Aid  
22 to Families with Dependent Children. The amendment also adds a  
23 fiscal note to the bill.  
24

Reported by Senator Bost for the Committee on Human Resources.  
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