MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document **No. 1058**

S.P. 354 In Senate, February 9, 1999

An Act to Provide for Geographic Distribution of Funds for Civil Legal Services.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative POVICH of Ellsworth and
Senators: CASSIDY of Washington, LONGLEY of Waldo, MITCHELL of Penobscot,
Representatives: BAGLEY of Machias, CAMPBELL of Holden, DUGAY of Cherryfield,
PINKHAM of Lamoine.

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

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Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 173,
4 §7, is amended to read:

6 **6. Distribution of funds.** The Supreme Judicial Court shall appoint the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission, consisting of 3
8 persons knowledgeable about the problems of ensuring access to justice in this State, to determine how to distribute the funds
10 in accordance with subsection 1 in a manner that will most efficiently and effectively maintain and enhance access to
12 justice in this State in a geographically equitable fashion. The commission shall review the allocation at least every 4 years or
14 on the request of any member of the commission and shall make adjustments to the allocation when appropriate. Funds must be
16 distributed at least quarterly with the first distribution occurring no later than January 2, 1998. The commission shall
18 compile information on the types of cases handled by recipient organizations and shall report this information and its
20 allocation decisions to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters no later
22 than February 1, 1999.

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SUMMARY
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This bill charges the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission
28 with ensuring that funding from the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund is disbursed in a geographically equitable fashion.
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