

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1552

S.P. 518

In Senate, February 25, 1999

**An Act to Ensure Adequate Nutrition Services for Maine's Elderly and  
to Create the Senior One-stop Program.**

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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 President LAWRENCE of York.  
Cosponsored by Speaker ROWE of Portland and  
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, PARADIS of Aroostook, PINGREE of Knox,  
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, KNEELAND of Easton, LOVETT of Scarborough,  
MAILHOT of Lewiston, TESSIER of Fairfield.

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

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**Sec. 1. Information services.** The Department of Human Services shall contract with an independent agency or entity to provide a toll-free telephone number for incoming calls from persons requesting information on services for the elderly. The calls must be answered by a person who is in geographic proximity to the caller and who is able to provide information as opposed to an automated system. When appropriate, the agency or entity handling the call shall offer a personal visit within a week of the telephone call arranged through local area agencies on aging.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1999-00	2000-01
<b>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
<b>Bureau of Elder and Adult Services</b>		
All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
Provides additional funding for Meals on Wheels		
<b>Bureau of Elder and Adult Services</b>		
All Other	\$350,000	\$350,000
Provides for contracts to establish the Senior One-Stop Program.		
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL</b>	<u>\$500,000</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to establish a toll-free telephone line for information on services for the elderly. This line must be answered by a person and may not be automated. Follow-up personal visits must be offered. This bill also appropriates \$150,000 per year for the Meals on Wheels program within the Department of Human Services and \$350,000 for the toll-free telephone and personal visit service.