

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 715

H.P. 510

House of Representatives, February 10, 2005

### **An Act To Provide Support for Legal Services for Low-income Mainers**

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TARDY of Newport.

Under suspension of the rules, cosponsored by President EDMONDS of Cumberland and Representatives: BOWEN of Rockport, BRAUTIGAM of Falmouth, CUMMINGS of Portland, DUDLEY of Portland, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, OTT of York, PELLETIER-SIMPSON of Auburn, Speaker RICHARDSON of Brunswick, Senators: BARTLETT of Cumberland, HOBBS of York.

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

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Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§3-A, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 173, §5, is repealed and the following is enacted in its place:

A. For all fees collected by the Judicial Department after July 1, 2005, 7% must be deposited in the fund.

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§3-A, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 173, §5, is amended to read:

B. A surcharge of \$5 \$10 must be imposed by a court on each civil fine, penalty or forfeiture imposed by the court and deposited in the fund.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

**Maine Civil Legal Services Fund**

Initiative: Provides funds for an appropriation to support legal services to persons who are otherwise not able to pay for these services as determined by Title 4, section 18-A, subsection 1, paragraph B.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
All Other	\$400,000	\$400,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$400,000</u>	<u>\$400,000</u>

**SUMMARY**

The bill provides that 7% of any fee collected after July 1, 2005 by the Judicial Department will be paid into the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund. It also increases from \$5 to \$10 the surcharge, imposed by the court on each civil fine, penalty or forfeiture imposed by the court, to be paid into the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund. The bill also provides an appropriation of \$400,000 each year for fiscal years 2005-06 and 2006-07 to support legal services to persons who are otherwise not able to pay for those services.