

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 1293

H.P. 890

House of Representatives, March 15, 2005

### **An Act To Assist Families and Children by Increasing Access to the Court System**

(EMERGENCY)

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PELLETIER-SIMPSON of Auburn.  
Cosponsored by Representative MILLS of Farmington, Senator HOBBS of York and  
Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, Speaker RICHARDSON of Brunswick, TARDY of  
Newport, WATSON of Bath.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

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6           Whereas, the courts of the State have experienced a steady  
increase in the number of matters involving families and  
children; and

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10          Whereas, the very system designed to help them has stalled;  
and

12          Whereas, delays have a detrimental effect on those whose  
cases cannot be reached; and

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16          Whereas, it is vitally necessary that resources be made  
available to prevent any injustice or hardship to the citizens of  
Maine; and

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20          Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
22 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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

26           **Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.**     The following  
28 appropriations and allocations are made.

30           **JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

32           **Courts - Supreme, Superior and District**

34           Initiative: Provides funds to the Judicial Department for 2  
36 Family Case Management Officer positions, 2 Assistant Clerk  
positions and 2 Security Officer positions to reduce the backlog  
of cases in counties with larger populations.

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<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
40           POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	6.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$129,368	\$139,307
42           All Other	\$25,296	\$8,636
44           GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$154,664</u>	<u>\$147,943</u>
46 <b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
Personal Services	\$251,126	\$270,419
48           All Other	\$49,104	\$16,764
50           FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$300,230</u>	<u>\$287,183</u>

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**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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### SUMMARY

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This bill includes General Fund appropriations and Federal Expenditures Fund allocations to the Judicial Department to provide funds for 2 family case management officers, 2 assistant clerks and 2 security officers to reduce the backlog of cases in counties with larger populations.

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