

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 1348

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H.P. 917

House of Representatives, April 16, 2015

### **An Act To Protect Older Adults from Financial Exploitation**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook.  
Cosponsored by Senator HASKELL of Cumberland and  
Representatives: Speaker EVES of North Berwick, MALABY of Hancock, Senator: KATZ of  
Kennebec.

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

3       **Whereas,** senior citizens are often the targets of fraudulent and exploitive financial  
4 schemes; and

5       **Whereas,** personal financial management assistance for those senior citizens who  
6 are no longer able to manage their finances could decrease the number of senior citizens  
7 who are taken advantage of financially and allow them to continue to live independently;  
8 and

9       **Whereas,** this legislation provides such assistance and needs to take effect as soon  
10 as possible to prevent further abuse; and

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

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

16       **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5114, sub-§2, ¶¶F and G** as enacted by PL 1973, c. 630, §1,  
17 are amended to read:

18       F. Services designed to assist older persons in avoiding institutionalization, including  
19 evaluation and screening and home health services; ~~or~~

20       G. Any other services; ~~if such services are necessary for the general well-being of~~  
21 ~~older persons; or~~

22       **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5114, sub-§2, ¶H** is enacted to read:

23       H. Services designed to assist older persons with maintaining their financial  
24 independence and avoiding financial exploitation, including personal financial  
25 management assistance.

26       **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
27 allocations are made.

28       **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

29       **Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office - 0140**

30       Initiative: Provides funding to support personal financial management assistance  
31 programs for senior citizens.

32			
33	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
34	All Other	\$175,000	\$175,000
35		<hr/>	<hr/>

1	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$175,000	\$175,000
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2       **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
3       legislation takes effect when approved.

## 4 SUMMARY

5        This bill provides ongoing funding to the office of aging and disability services  
6        program within the Department of Health and Human Services for the operation of  
7        personal financial management assistance programs for senior citizens.