

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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5/21/19  
ROSS

L.D. 214

Date: 5/21/19

Majority

(Filing No. H-316)

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JUDICIARY

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
129TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 177, L.D. 214, Bill, "An Act To Increase Funding for Civil Legal Services"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2005, c. 361, §1, is further amended to read:

B. Except as provided in paragraph C, money in the fund must be disbursed to legal services providers to support the provision of free civil legal services to low-income or needy people or the needy elderly in this State. Money disbursed from the fund may not be used by a recipient to support lobbying as defined in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 9 unless the recipient is responding to a request by a Legislator or a member of the Executive Department. Only the following legal services providers may receive disbursement to provide free civil legal services:

- (1) Nonprofit organizations whose missions include the provision of statewide free civil legal services and who have at least ~~one-year~~ 5 years of experience providing free civil legal services;
- (2) Legal aid clinics of accredited law schools operating exclusively in Maine; and
- (3) Programs whose primary mission is to coordinate pro bono legal services on a statewide basis for low-income people in this State.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 177, L.D. 214

1 Initiative: Increases funding for civil legal services for persons unable to afford a lawyer  
2 by providing additional funds available for distribution by the Civil Legal Services Fund  
3 Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 18-A, subsection 1.

4	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
5	All Other	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
6			
7	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>
8			

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment  
11 improves funding for civil legal services by providing an appropriation from the General  
12 Fund to be distributed through the existing procedures of the Civil Legal Services Fund  
13 Commission. The amendment clarifies the qualifications for providers to be eligible for  
14 funding.

15 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
16 (See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 214

LR 1107(02)

An Act To Increase Funding for Civil Legal Services

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A. (H-316)*

Committee: Judiciary

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

## Fiscal Note

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	Projections FY 2021-22	Projections FY 2022-23
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$5,000,000 beginning in fiscal year 2019-20 to support civil legal services to persons who otherwise are not able to pay. Funds are distributed pursuant to 4 MRSA § 18-A, subsection 1.