

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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5/17/23
ROS

Date 5-17-23

Minority

(Filing No H-163)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 788, L D 1240, "An Act to Develop a Pilot Program to Provide Legal Representation to Families in the Child Protection System"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following

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

INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES, MAINE COMMISSION ON
Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Z112

Initiative Appropriates one-time funding for the design and administration of a 2-year pilot program beginning October 1, 2023 to provide legal counsel and related advocacy services to indigent parents and custodians in Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties who have become the subject of a child protection investigation by the Department of Health and Human Services

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$225,000	\$300,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$225,000</u>	<u>\$300,000</u>

Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Z112

Initiative Appropriates one-time funding to establish and operate a "wa1rmlne" to provide information and referrals to parents and custodians statewide who are subject to child protection investigations and to screen parents and custodians for eligibility to receive pilot program services

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$112,500	\$150,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$112,500</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Z112

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

1 Initiative Appropriates one-time funding for attorney reimbursement for indigent legal
 2 services and related advocacy services provided to pilot program participants in their
 3 dealings with the Department of Health and Human Services and on other civil legal issues
 4 related to the participants' child protection matters

5	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
6	All Other	\$281,250	\$375,000
7			
8	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$281,250</u>	<u>\$375,000</u>

9 **Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Z112**

10 Initiative Appropriates one-time funding to contract for an independent evaluation of the
 11 pilot program to provide legal counsel and related advocacy services to indigent parents
 12 and custodians in Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties who have become the
 13 subject of a child protection investigation by the Department of Health and Human
 14 Services

15	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
16	All Other	\$93,750	\$125,000
17			
18	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$93,750</u>	<u>\$125,000</u>

19
 20 **INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES, MAINE**
 21 **COMMISSION ON**
 22 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

23		2023-24	2024-25
24	GENERAL FUND	\$712,500	\$950,000
25			
26	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$712,500</u>	<u>\$950,000</u>

27
 28 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
 29 number to read consecutively

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds an appropriations
 32 and allocations section

33 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

34 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1240

LR 675(02)

An Act to Develop a Pilot Program to Provide Legal Representation to Families in the Child Protection System

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-163)
Committee: Judiciary
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$712,500	\$950,000	\$237,500	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$712,500	\$950,000	\$237,500	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill requires the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to establish a 2-year pilot program to provide legal representation and related advocacy services to indigent parents and custodians residing in three counties who have become the subject of a child protection investigation by the Department of Health and Human Services and to provide a "warmline" for parents and custodians statewide. The bill includes one-time General Fund appropriations of \$712,500 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$950,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to design and implement the program, reimburse attorneys for indigent legal services provided, operate the warmline and conduct an independent evaluation of the program. These estimates assume the 2-year program is in effect from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2025.

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services to partner with Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to design and evaluate the pilot program and ensure that parents and custodians who fall within the target population are made aware of the program are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.