Bill as Introduced

SB 69-FN-A-LOCAL – AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

5/9/01 1143s

2001 SESSION

01-0802
09/01

SENATE BILL ***69-FN-A-LOCAL***

AN ACT relative to a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.

SPONSORS: Sen. Pignatelli, Dist. 13

COMMITTEE: Public Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill makes an appropriation to New Hampshire Legal Assistance for establishment of a new office in the city of Nashua to provide civil legal services to low-income persons in Nashua and the surrounding area.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

FILE

5/9/01 1143s

01-0802
09/01

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand One

AN ACT relative to a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Appropriation; New Hampshire Legal Assistance. The sum of $315,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002 and $315,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 is hereby appropriated to New Hampshire Legal Assistance for the costs of establishing a new office in the city of Nashua to provide civil legal services to low income persons in the city of Nashua and the surrounding area. These civil legal services include services related to such issues as housing, social security and other government benefits, health care, domestic violence, and consumer issues. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

LBAO
01-0802
1/16/01

SB 69-FN-A-LOCAL - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT relative to a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined this bill will increase state general fund expenditures by $315,000 in FY 2002. There will be no fiscal impact on county and local expenditures or state, county and local revenues.

This bill appropriates $315,000 from the general fund in FY 2002 to New Hampshire Legal Assistance.

METHODOLOGY:

This bill appropriates $315,000 to New Hampshire Legal Assistance for the costs of establishing a new office in the city of Nashua.

Amendments

Rep. Craig, Hills. 38
May 24, 2001
2001-1306h
09/03

Amendment to SB 69-FN-A-LOCAL

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua.

Amend section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

1 New Hampshire Legal Assistance Office. The legislature hereby establishes a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in the city of Nashua to provide civil legal services to low income persons in that city and the surrounding area. These civil legal services include services related to such issues as housing, social security and other government benefits, health care, domestic violence, and consumer issues.

2001-1306s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in the city of Nashua to provide civil legal services to low-income persons in Nashua and the surrounding area.

Speakers

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # SB 69-FN-A-L Date 5/16/01

Committee Judiciary

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one) Pro	Con
Claire Ebel	18 Low Av Concord	225-3080	UHCLU	XXX	
Nicole Fouliard	81 KMR Warner	456-2064	NH NOW	XXX	

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 69-FN-A-L

BILL TITLE: relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.

DATE: May 16, 2001

LOB ROOM: 208 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 9:30 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 11:05 a.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. (Mock), (L. Jean), Jacobson, (Bergin), (Rowe), (Ford), Dudley, Soltani, P. (Woods), Rice, Leishman, (Elliott), (Reid), (Wall), J. Pratt, Craig, J. Wood, (Potter), (Espiefs) and (Franklin).

Bill Sponsors: Sen. Pignatelli

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

*Sen. Pignatelli testified in support of the bill and provided the committee with a copy of her written testimony outlining the contents of the bill. Questions were asked by Reps. Jean, Elliott, Rowe, Potter and Mock.

*John Tobin provided us with written testimony and supplemented that testimony by stating that "... by passing this bill, the potential benefit to local municipalities would be approximately $800,000...". He explained that some of his clients receive benefits from their office who have been denied social security benefits and are receiving town assistance pending their appeal. Once the appeal has been successfully completed, towns are reimbursed from the arrearage of social security benefits paid to the individual. He also testified that the legislation in previous years created services for north country residents and appropriated $200,000. This bill asks for $315,000 each year and creates the same services for the greater Nashua area, including a satellite office in Salem. Questions were asked by Reps. Wall, Elliott, Rowe, Potter, and Franklin. In response to specific questions, Mr. Tobin clarified his testimony by stating that his office's current budget is $2.4 million. $950,000 of that comes from the NH Bar Association; $200,000 comes from the State; the remainder comes from 23 other organizations, including the United Way. In addition, he clarified the towns which would be covered by the creation of a Nashua office (i.e., Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Lyndeborough, Merrimack, Milford, Mt. Vernon, Nashua and Wilton, and Salem with a satellite office). He also stated that this would relieve pressure which is currently put on the Manchester office and allow for better services from that area office. Further questions were asked by Reps. Wall, Mock, Potter, Franklin and Woods.

Nina Gardner testified in support of the bill. She is the Executive Director of the Judicial Council. She testified to the smoothness of operation in the north country program that has been in existence for 4 years. She testified to confirm the $200,000 that is there, and confirmed John Tobin's statements surrounding the return of monies to the communities and how that works. She also

explained that a family of four would have to earn less than $22,000 to be eligible for the program. The average lawyer charges $125-$150 per hour, so it is clear to see that these families cannot afford legal representation. The NH Legal Defense Fund only accepts civil cases and the typical case deals with landlord-tenant, domestic abuse, restraining orders, and divorces. No money is used for any type of family planning litigation. She found that the people differ between the north country and the southern tier of New Hampshire and that the types of cases differ. They get involved in some cases where the landlord lives in Massachusetts, but has tenant housing in New Hampshire. Last year, they serviced 9,900 people. Questions were asked by Reps. Wall, Potter and Woods.

*Susan Mead briefly testified in favor of the bill, and submitted written testimony. Questions were asked by Reps. Wall, Potter and Woods.

Eileen Brady testified that homeless people need skilled legal representation and many of her clients end up at her facility because they did not have legal representation. They were evicted from their apartments and moved into their cars, which later ended up being impounded. They end up either at the soup kitchen or the town welfare officers provide motels at a greater cost than what this bill appropriates. She testified to who the principal folks are who provide services, i.e. Catholic Charities, city, town, county and state welfare workers. A question was asked by Rep. Mock.

Sen. Ned Gordon stepped in briefly to testify in support of the bill. He stated that the bill came out of a 13-11 Senate vote and that he had split with his Republican colleagues because the policy of providing the services was overriding the availability of funds. He felt the majority of his colleagues opposed the bill not because of the policy but because of the availability of funds.

*Sheila Evans provided written testimony and charts and graphs on how this legislation would enhance the status of women in the State of New Hampshire, and said that the time has come for the 19,000 single women with children to have better access to legal representation.

Bryan Christiansen read the testimony of the Mayor of Nashua into the record and stated that the Mayor's office would be available to answer any questions surrounding this legislation, and will provide their support of the bill.

Pink Cards:

- Sen. Pignatelli, sponsor. Supports the bill.
- John Tobin, Executive Director, NH Legal Assistance, 1361 Elm St., Suite 507, Manchester, NH 03101. 644-5393, Ext. 216. Supports the bill.
- Nina Gardner, representing Judicial Council. 271-3592. Supports the bill.
- Susan Mead, representing Community Court COC, Nashua, NH. 889-6147.

Pink Cards: (continued)

- Eileen Brady, representing Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, 193 E. Mitchell St., Manchester, NH 03103. 889-7770. Supports the bill.
- Sen. Ned Gordon. Supports the bill.
- Sheila Evans, representing NH Women's Lobby. 224-9105. Supports the bill.
- Bryan Christiansen, representing Mayor Bernie Streeter, 229 Main St., City Hall, Nashua, NH 03060. No indication of support.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Larry G. Elliott
Committee Clerk

Testimony

EMBARGOED
UNTIL 10:00 am EST.
NOVEMBER 15, 2000

FIL

The Status of Women in New Hampshire

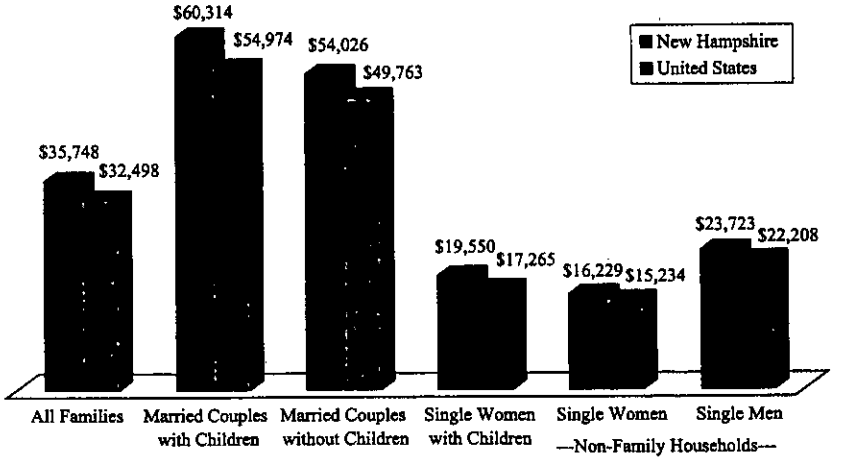
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INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

access to adequate social and economic resources (Miringoff and Miringoff, 1999; Smeeding, 1997). Because median family income varies by state, this measure is more sensitive to variations in cost or standard of living than the federal poverty line, which is the same for all states. Figure 10 also shows the proportion of women living under one-half median income in the state and in the United States as a whole.

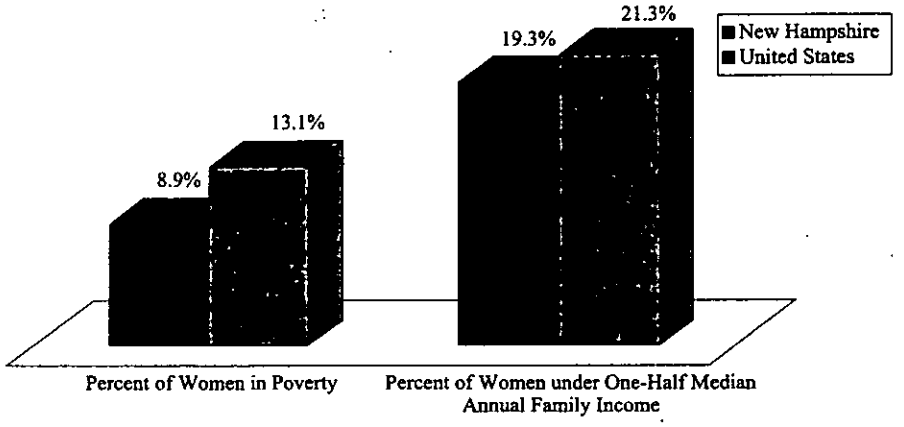
Figure 9.
Median Annual Income for Selected Family Types and Single Women and Men, in New Hampshire and the United States, 1997 (1998 dollars)



Source: Economic Policy Institute, 2000.
Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Overall, this measure shows much higher rates of hardship than the poverty rate does. In the United States, the proportion of women living in families with income under one-half median income was 21.3 percent, much higher than the percent of women living in families with income below the federal poverty line (13.1 percent). In New Hampshire, 19.3 percent of women were living under one-half median family income in 1997, a much higher rate of hardship than the poverty rate among women in New Hampshire. Nevertheless, the percent of women living under one-half median family income in New Hampshire is 2.0 percentage points lower than that for the nation as a whole, indicating that women in New Hampshire do fare slightly better than women nationally in terms of family income. However, they do not fare as much better as the difference between the U.S.-New Hampshire poverty rates (4.2 percentage points) would suggest.

Figure 10.
Percent of Women Living in Poverty and Living under One-Half Median Annual Family Income in New Hampshire and the United States, 1997



Source: Economic Policy Institute, 2000.
Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

were eliminated (Hartmann, Allen and Owens, 1999). As a result, while eliminating the wage gap would not completely eliminate poverty or hardship—especially for women and men in low-wage jobs—pay equity provisions would help many women support their families.

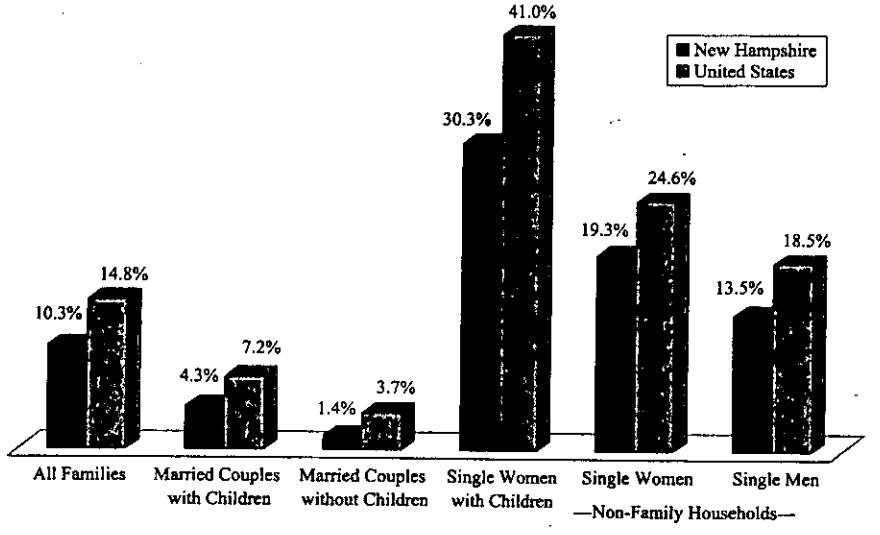
Finally, despite the overall growth in women's earnings and a strong economy, in most states—including both high and low earnings states—inequality among families is growing. Research by the Economic Policy Institute notes that in the nation as a whole in 1996-98, the income of the average family in the top 20 percent of families was 10.6 times the income of the average family in the bottom 20 percent. This represents a substantial increase from 1978-80, when families in the top 20 percent had about 7.4 times as much income as those in the bottom 20 percent. In New Hampshire, families in the top 20 percent received 8.8 times as much income as those in the bottom 20 percent in 1996-98, indicating slightly lower income inequality than in the nation as a whole (Bernstein, McNichol, Mishel and Zahradnik, 2000). In 1978-80, New Hampshire families in the top 20 percent received 5.6 percent times the income of those in the bottom 20 percent. Thus the inequality ratio increased by 3.2 percentage points in New Hampshire, the same as in the nation as a whole.

State Safety Nets for Economic Security

The amount of cash welfare benefits varies widely from state to state. Figure 12 compares the size of New Hampshire's average welfare benefit with one-half median family income in the state, as a measure of how well the state's welfare safety net helps poor women achieve an acceptable standard of living. Obviously, the poverty of many families is not alleviated by welfare alone, and many families also receive Food Stamps or other forms of noncash benefits. Still, research shows that, even adding the value of noncash benefits, many women remain poor (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1997b). In New Hampshire as in all of the United States, TANF cash benefits are substantially below one-half median income. Although New Hampshire's cash benefits are slightly above the national average ($5,005 versus $4,279 per year), benefits are only 28.4 percent of one-half median income in the state. This level is comparable to the nation as a whole, however, since the national benefit level is 26.0 percent of one-half median income nationally.

New Hampshire does a worse than average job of providing a safety net for unemployed women. While a smaller proportion of women is unemployed in New Hampshire (3.0 percent) than in the nation as a whole (4.6 percent; see Table 7), a larger proportion of unemployed women goes without benefits. The percent of unemployed women in New

Figure 11.
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EMBARGOED
UNTIL 10:00 am EST.
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The Status of Women in New Hampshire

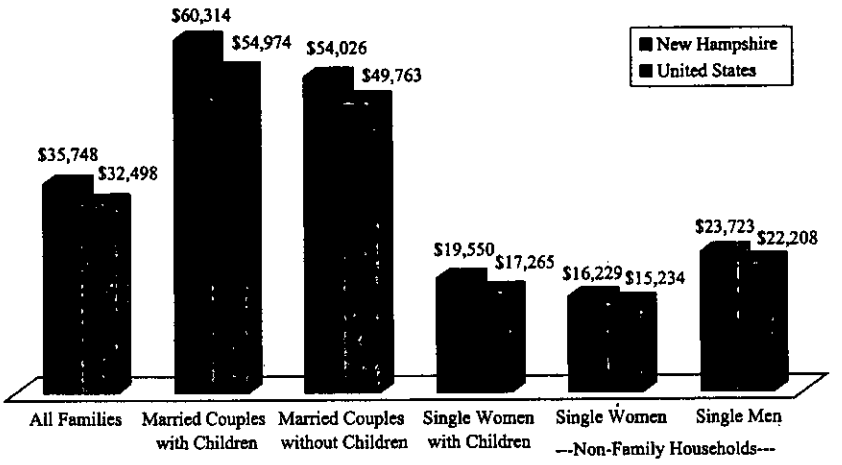
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INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

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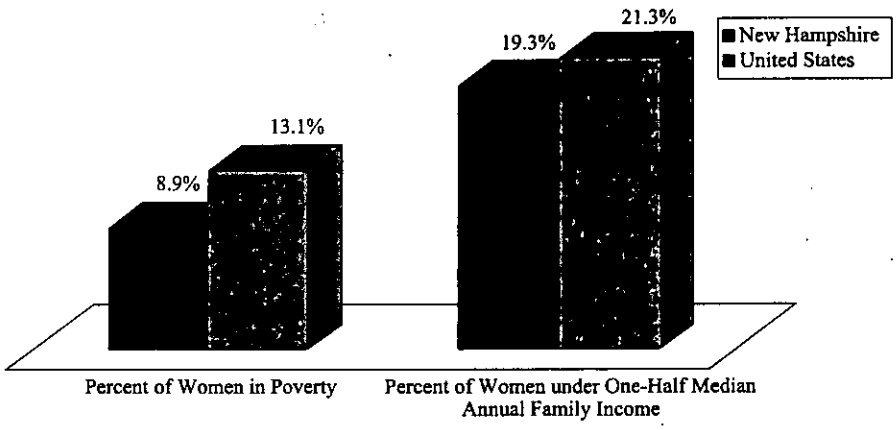
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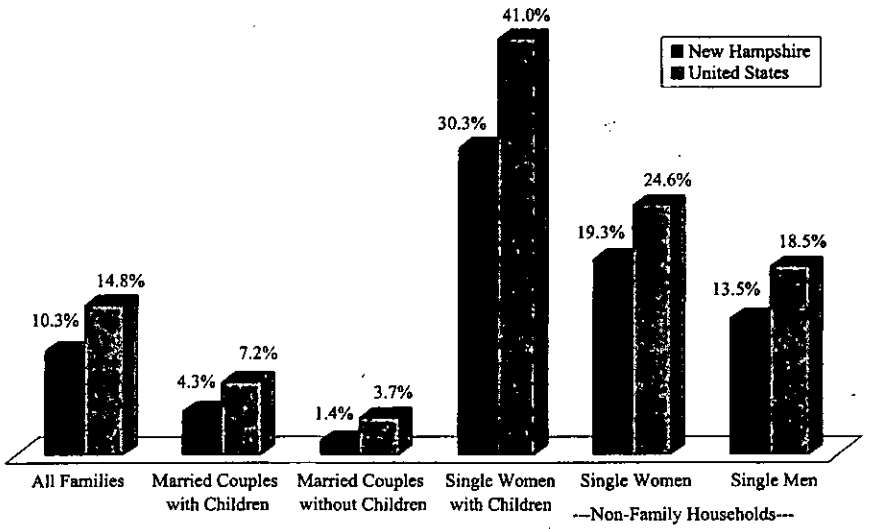
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NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE
Administrative Offices
1361 Elm Street, Suite 307
Manchester, NH 03101-1323

Tel: (603) 644-5393 • Fax: (603) 644-1018

FILE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Henry Mock, Chairman, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: John E. Tobin, Jr., Executive Director
New Hampshire Legal Assistance

RE: SB69 – Opening a Nashua office of New Hampshire Legal Assistance for civil legal services for low-income and elderly people

DATE: May 16, 2001

The New Hampshire Senate has passed SB69, a bill sponsored by Senator Pignatelli and supported by Senator O'Hearn and Nashua Mayor Bernard Streeter, to fund a legal assistance office in Nashua. The United Way, the Nashua Bar Association, and more than thirty social service agencies have also strongly endorsed this proposal, which has now been referred to your Committee.

The bill provides funding of $315,000 per year to create a Nashua office with three lawyers, a paralegal, and a secretary. This office would handle domestic violence, Social Security, housing/homeless, Medicaid, Medicare and other civil legal cases for needy low-income and elderly clients.

I hope that you will consider supporting the bill. Attached is more information about our program and our proposal, along with a number of supporting letters. Please contact me if you have any questions at 206-2216 (office), 225-1102 (home) or via e-mail at jtobin@nhla.org.

Thank you.

Senate Bill 69-FN-A-LOC
Creating a Nashua office of New Hampshire Legal Assistance

New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) Fact Sheet

Mission: NHLA provides legal services to low income and elderly people in civil cases involving domestic violence, housing/homelessness, Social Security and SSI disability benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, VA benefits, nursing home residents' rights, property tax relief, the rights of mobile home owners in mobile home parks, etc. We operate a statewide telephone hotline for senior citizens with legal problems.

Eligibility: For those under 60, the income ceiling is 125% of poverty level (for example, for a family of four, $21,313 annual income is the upper limit).

Current Offices: Manchester, Claremont, Portsmouth and Littleton (satellite in Berlin).

Funding: Twenty-five funding sources, including NH Bar Foundation, ten United Ways across the state, three federal grants, three state pass-through grants of federal funds, state appropriation of $200,000 per year for the Littleton office, and $30,000 from Division of Elderly and Adult Services (to match $104,000 in federal funds for Senior Citizens Advice Line), attorney fundraising campaign, etc.

Need for Nashua office: Our Manchester office presently serves most populous region of the state, including Manchester, Nashua, Concord, and Laconia, and is stretched thin. Nashua is the second biggest city in NH, with an acute shortage of affordable housing, a growing elderly and immigrant population, and a network of social services that can help us link with vulnerable poor and elderly with urgent legal problems.

The 1999 Community Needs Assessment prepared by the United Way of Greater Nashua demonstrates that legal services is a significant unmet need in Nashua. The assessment also indicates that the issues that NHLA deals with for our clients, housing, access to health care and subsistence income, are among the Nashua community's most pressing needs.

Our proposal: A Nashua office with three attorneys, one paralegal and one secretary, located if possible with other human service agencies, with the same staff traveling to Salem to operate a part-time satellite office, again in conjunction with other agencies.

NHLA's proven record: With a thirty-year history of providing high quality efficient legal services to NH's needy, NHLA is highly regarded in the legal community and among social service agencies across the state. Our program is managed frugally, with many years of flawless audits and uniformly positive and enthusiastic reviews from the United Ways and our other funding sources. With our initial state appropriation, beginning in 1997, we have successfully operated an office in Littleton with a part-time satellite office in Berlin. This approach has helped us serve our clients more efficiently, while developing and preserving our connections with the local social service and legal communities.

For more information: please contact John E. Tobin, Jr., Executive Director, at NHLA 1361 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101, telephone: 644-5393, ext. 216, (home: 225-1102), email: jtobin@nhla.org

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

Proposal would create legal aid office for poor in Nashua

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

■ Under Pignatelli-sponsored bill, state would spend $315k annualy to maintain office serving 11 towns.

CONCORD – Greater Nashua needs a state-financed legal aid office to serve low-income citizens, Sen. Debora Pignatelli, D-Nashua, told a Senate committee Tuesday.

Pignatelli offered legislation (SB 69) to spend $315,000 a year to open a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua and a part-time office in Salem.

"This could benefit the people of the Nashua area in helping low-income and elderly citizens with their legal needs," Pignatelli told the Senate Public Affairs Committee.

Legal Assistance Director John Tobin said Nashua had an office for several years but had to close it in the late 1970s due to budget problems.

"My dream has been to re-open the Nashua office," Tobin said.

Currently, 25 different financial sources pay for legal assistance, but four years ago the Legislature set a precedent for using $200,000 in state budget dollars annually to re-open an office in Littleton.

"Littleton was our top priority because we had no presence north of Claremont, but Nashua is next," Tobin said.

Nashua now has the highest rents in the state and a very low vacancy rate, he said.

"When someone calls and there is the threat of eviction, the stakes are really high," Tobin said.

If poor parents lose their housing, Pignatelli said this can lead to job loss and state attempts to remove children because the family is homeless.

"With early intervention we could prevent a downward spiral that can ruin their lives," Pignatelli said.

Last year, the program served 861 people from Nashua and 10 surrounding towns. Clients had access to a toll-free telephone line and to a meeting room available at the Nashua Public Library.

"That's really a drop in the bucket for the real need. We think we can do much more," Tobin said.

"There's no replacement for having an office where you can actually meet with clients."

This office would serve several communities including Pelham, Salem and Windham. The program now has offices in Claremont, Littleton, Manchester and Portsmouth.

"The Manchester office right now serves Manchester, Laconia, Concord and Nashua areas right now, and those are the largest parts of the state," Tobin said.

"What we do, we accomplish on a shoestring."

The tentative budget would pay for three full-time lawyers, a paralegal and two secretaries.

Payment would come from the proposed state budget request and $17,000 that now comes from the United Way of Greater Nashua.

"While hundreds of individuals and their families are assisted in our area by New Hampshire Legal Assistance, the presence and convenience offered by a permanent office in Nashua would significantly expand services and help fill an important need," said Donald Mattise, president of the local United Way chapter.

BILL AT A GLANCE

■ Bill number: SB 69
■ Sponsor: Sen. Debora Pignatelli, D-Nashua.
■ Description: The bill would create a new office for New Hampshire Legal Assistance in Nashua to provide civil legal services to low-income residents of the region.
■ Status: Senate Public Affairs Committee took testimony on the bill Tuesday.

□□□

Kevin Landrigan can be reached at 224-8804 or by e-mail at landrigank@telegraph-nh.com.

United Way

70th Anniversary

1930 - 2000

February 1, 2001

Senator Sheila Roberge
Senate Public Affairs Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Senator Roberge:

I understand that a bill is coming before the Public Affairs Committee requesting that New Hampshire Legal Assistance obtain funding to operate an office in Nashua. United Way of Greater Nashua supports such an effort.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance is an agency in good standing with our organization. United Way of Greater Nashua has consistently funded this organization for many years. New Hampshire Legal Assistance was scrutinized by our volunteers in 2000 as part of United Way's Management Assistance Program. All of our participating agencies undergo this review on a regular basis. New Hampshire Legal Assistance passed all our criteria without exception.

As part of recent community assessments conducted in the Greater Nashua area, the lack of affordable legal services is consistently identified as a major problem. While hundreds of individuals and their families are assisted in our area by New Hampshire Legal Assistance, the presence and convenience offered by a permanent office in Nashua would significantly expand services and help fill an important need.

I hope that your committee will give favorable consideration to this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Mattise
President

89% of households in the Alzheimer's Respite Program of Home Health & Hospice Care were able to keep their family member at home.

With instructors from Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, a program of Southern NH Services, inmates who participated in the Threshold and Decision course at the Hillsborough County Jail experienced an incarceration recidivism rate of 14%.

Henry Clay Drive • Merrimack, NH 03054-4848 • Phone: 603-882-4011 • Fax: 603-882-5406 • Visit us on the web at: www.unitedwaynashua.org

Amherst • Brookline • Hollis • Hudson • Litchfield • Lyndeborough • Merrimack • Milford • Mont Vernon • Nashua • Wilton

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060

February 6, 2001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

At a meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care unanimously agreed to express their support for New Hampshire Legal Assistance to establish an office in the City of Nashua. Having an office in Nashua will provide this area with a greatly needed avenue for those seeking counsel.

If we can be of further help or you require further information, please contact Peter Kelleher, Chairperson, Greater Nashua Continuum of Care (telephone: 882-3616).

Sincerely,

Peter Kelleher

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Peter Kelleher, Chairperson

Eric Christ, executive director
Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Inc.

Executive Director
Keystone Hall
Southern NH Services, Inc.

Bob Demers, Dir. Operations
St Joseph Hospital

Sharon Foss, OHHS

/mla AIDS TASK FORCE

Bi Collier-Kellers Nashua Area Habitat for Humanity
GIANNI GIANNOTTI-COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NASHUA
Community Council of Nashua
Susan Bultman - Harbor Homes, Inc.
Roberto Saez Harbor Homes

Debra E. Soule, Marguerite's Place

Merrimack Valley Adult Services
Marguerite Place
SNHS
The Gathering Place
Harbor Homes, Inc.
St John Neumann Church - Merrimack
GNHIN
/mla GNHFH
Nashua Visiting Nurse
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Nashua Community Council
Area Agency for Developmental Services.

Ellen B. Ortiz
3 Saville St. Nashua, NH
Emergency
Wendy Bucci, Shelter Manager
Rape & Assault Support Services, Inc.

Lisa Ruiz-Ingato, Community
VNS of Greater Nashua organization

Mrs Trish St. Joseph's Hospital

Robert Clarke GREATER NASHUA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Mike Bancheff,
So. NH HIV/AIDS Task Force
Betsy Ireland Pandora Pastoral Care Center

Mary Quer Harbor Homes Inc.

NASHUA BAR ASSOCIATION

VALERIE C. RAUDONIS, PRESIDENT
7 AUBURN STREET
NASHUA, NH 03064-2615

TELEPHONE: (603) 883-3831
FACSIMILE: (603) 883-3206

February 5, 2001

Honorable Sheila Roberge, Chair
Senate Public Affairs Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Roberge,

I am writing as President of the Nashua Bar Association to express strong support for Senate Bill 69, which would appropriate funding for a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) provides desperately needed legal services in civil cases to poor and elderly citizens. Their attorneys and paralegals handle cases involving housing, domestic violence, Social Security, Medicaid, medicare, nursing home residents' rights and other unique problems of low income and elderly people who cannot afford a lawyer. While NHLA now serves Nashua from its Manchester office, a full-time office in Nashua would enable the program to serve many ore people with urgent legal problems who live in Nashua, Salem and the surrounding towns.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this. I hope that you and your committee will recommend passage of this bill to the full Senate.

Very truly yours,

Valerie C. Raudonis

VCR/dsk

This is an excerpt from the Nashua United Way's community needs assessment

(See next page)

GREATER NASHUA MEASURES UP

The 1999 Community Assessment

Amherst Brookline Hollis Hudson Litchfield Lyndeborough
Merrimack Milford Mont Vernon Nashua Wilton

Top Issues Identified from Community Assessment Surveys, 1998-1999

Rank	Regional Household Survey Community Issues	Major + Moderate Problems
1	Getting medical insurance people can afford	72%
2	Medical care people can afford	70%
3	Dental care people can afford	66%
4/5	Drug use	65%
	Housing people can afford	65%
6/7	Alcohol use	64%
	Child care people can afford	64%
8	Having enough money for future expenses	61%
9	Impacts of rapid population growth	60%
10	Behavior or emotional problems with children	54%
11	Legal services people can afford	53%
12/14	Teenage pregnancy	52%
	Having enough money to meet everyday expens	52%
	Crime committed by youth	52%
15	Violence against women*	50%
16	Crime committed by adults	49%
17	Child abuse & neglect	48%
18	Help for the elderly in their homes*	47%
19/20	Finding a job with medical benefits	46%
	School drop-outs	46%

Rank	Regional Household Survey Personal/Family Issues	Major + Moderate Problems
1	Having enough money for future expenses	43%
2/3	Dental care people can afford	40%
	Getting medical insurance people can afford	
4	Medical care people can afford	38%
5	Legal services people can afford	34%
6	Housing people can afford	30%
7	Impacts of rapid population growth	25%
8	Having enough money to meet everyday expens	24%
9/11	Water quality *	22%
	Child care people can afford	
	Quality education	
12	Finding a job with medical benefits	21%
13	Household budgeting	20%
14	Job security	18%
15/16	Social & recreational opportunities for youth	16%
	Public transportation	
17	Public kindergarten	14%
18	Help for the elderly in their homes*	13%
19/20	Behavior or emotional problems with children	12%
	Safety in schools *	

* new to the survey in 1998

Rank	Provider Survey	Major + Moderate Problems
1	Housing people can afford	100%
2/3	Getting medical insurance people can afford	94%
	Medical care people can afford	94%
4	Having enough money to meet everyday expens	90%
5/6	Dental care people can afford	87%
	Child care people can afford	87%
7/8	Having enough money for future expenses	84%
	Behavior or emotional problems with children	84%
9/12	Legal services people can afford	81%
	Parenting skills	81%
	Poverty*	81%
	Public transportation	81%
13/15	Alcohol use	78%
	Child abuse and neglect	78%
	Violence against women	78%
16/18	Finding a job with medical benefits	77%
	Help for the elderly in their homes	77%
	Homelessness*	77%
19/21	Depression	74%
	Services for those who do not speak English	74%
	Teenage pregnancy	74%

Top Issues Identified from Community Assessment Surveys, 1995

Rank	Regional Household Survey Community Issues	Major + Moderate Problems
1	Medical care people can afford	79%
2	Getting medical insurance people can afford	78%
3	Dental care people can afford	76%
4	Drug abuse	70%
5/6	Enough money for everyday expenses	68%
	Housing people can afford	68%
7/8	Crime committed by youth	67%
	Enough money for extras	67%
9	Finding a job with medical benefits	66%
10	Alcohol abuse	64%
11	Job security	61%
12/13	Behavior or emotional problems with children	61%
	Child care people can afford	61%
14	Impacts of rapid population growth	60%
15	Public transportation	56%
16	Teenage pregnancy	54%
17	Violence against women	54%
18	Parenting skills	53%
19/20	Legal services people can afford	50%
	Quality education	50%

Rank	Regional Household Survey Personal/Family Issues	Major + Moderate Problems
1	Medical care people can afford	42%
2	Enough money for extras	40%
3	Dental care people can afford	39%
4	Getting medical insurance people can afford	38%
5	Finding a job with medical benefits	32%
6/7	Having enough money for everyday expenses	31%
	Job security	31%
8/9	Housing people can afford	30%
	Household budgeting	30%
10	Legal services people can afford	24%
11	Quality education	21%
12	Impacts of rapid population growth	20%
13/15	Social & recreational opportunities for youth	16%
	Unemployment	16%
	Public transportation	16%
16	Child care people can afford	15%
17	Public kindergarten	14%
18/19	Age discrimination	12%
	Quality housing	12%
20	Depression	11%

II. PROGRAM IMPACT

A. Program Outcomes NH Legal Assistance outcome measurement for United Way

Complete the following tables. Other information, such as logic models, may be attached.[4] (Use additional pages as necessary.)

For Completed Funding Year: 1999-2000

Outcome(s)	Indicator(s)	Target(s)*	Level(s) Achieved
To obtain, preserve or increase disability subsistence income for low-income individuals and family members to provide the means to secure basic necessities, such as housing, food, and health care.	In 1999-2000, **310** low-income individuals and family members will seek to obtain or increase disability benefit income, such as Supplementary Income (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSD), and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), through legal representation. 63 low-income individuals and **160** family members received representation to obtain or increase disability benefit income.	75% (47 out of 63) of clients receiving representation at a hearing before an administrative law judge will achieve the anticipated outcome of new or increased disability benefit income.	89% (56 out of 63) of these low-income individuals and family members won new or increased disability benefit income. **56** low-income clients, and **150** family members obtained **$460,839** in retroactive lump sum benefits. In addition, the clients and family members obtained **$27,990** in ongoing monthly benefits, for an annual total of **$334,679**. The outcome results for 56 low-income residents of New Hampshire in 1999-2000 is a total of **$795,518** in new or increased annual income. **6** out of **56** clients, and **15** household members live in the Nashua United Way area. These clients received $38,246 in retroactive lump sum benefits, in addition to **$2,608** in ongoing monthly benefits, which amounts to **$31,296** in new or increased annual income. The outcome results for 6 Nashua area clients in 1999-2000 is a total of **$69,542** in new or increased annual income.

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060

February 6, 2001

FILE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

At a meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care unanimously agreed to express their support for New Hampshire Legal Assistance to establish an office in the City of Nashua. Having an office in Nashua will provide this area with a greatly needed avenue for those seeking counsel.

If we can be of further help or you require further information, please contact Peter Kelleher, Chairperson, Greater Nashua Continuum of Care (telephone: 882-3616).

Sincerely,

Peter Kelleher
Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Peter Kelleher, Chairperson

Eric Christ, executive director
Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Inc.

Pat Sanborn, Executive Director
Keystone Hall

Nicholas Larosa, Community Service Director
Southern NH Services, Inc.

Bob Demers, Dir. Operations
St Joseph Hospital

Shaun Toro, OHHS

Janet Read, /mla AIDS TASK FORCE

Bi Corliss-Tellers Nashua Area Health Ctr.

GIANNI GIANNETTI - COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NASHUA

Kent Wak - Community Council of Nashua

Susan Bultman - Harbor Homes, Inc.

Roberto Salz Harbor Homes

Rebra A. Sorli, Marguerite's Place

Marguerite Place

Sr. Sharon Welch Marguerite Place

Pam Laval SNHS

John Harrington The Gathering Place

Melanie Parks Harbor Homes, Inc.

Mary Moriarty · St John Neumann Church - Merrimack

Robert L. Mankin GNHIN

Dave Darlis /mla GNHFH

Tracy Fox

Gianni Giannetti COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dian Wh. Ning Van Commanding Council

DONNA Bennett - Area Agency for Developmental Services.

Allen B. Dale
3 Saville St. Nashua, N.H.

Wendy Bruce, Emergency Shelter Manager
Rape & Assault Support Services, Inc.

Lisa Ruiz-Ingalls, Community organizer
UHS of Greater Nashua

Mrs Irish St. Joseph's Hospital

Robert Clarke GREATER NASHUA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Mike Bianchetti, So. NH HIV/AIDS TASK FORCE

Betsy Jordan Nashua Regional Day Center

Mary Quinn Harbor Homes Inc.

Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Inc.
P.O. Box 3116, Nashua, NH 03061 · (603) 889-7770 · Fax (603) 889-2347

February 5, 2001

FILE

Senator Deborah Pignatelli
Room 115
State House
Concord, NH 033301

Dear Senator Pignatelli:

The Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter is pleased to provide this letter of support for your bill seeking appropriations to open a Nashua office of New Hampshire Legal Assistance.

All of our clients are low-income persons who cannot afford an attorney. They are the very people Legal Assistance serves, but the lack of an office in Nashua or the region makes it extremely difficult for people who live here to access their help. The right to an attorney, regardless of social or economic status is one of the cornerstones of our democracy.

We often speak with people who need legal representation for very legitimate issues but cannot work with Legal Assistance because they are not local. People have problems with tenant and benefits issues. It is difficult to get through on the phone with the 800 number. Many people do not have their own phone and are calling from an agency or a friend's phone so leaving a message does not work. People in Nashua and the surrounding towns who must try and meet with a lawyer at the library often do not connect. That is problematic for the client and for the attorney working on their case. Local access with an office would be invaluable to people in need of services. A Nashua office would help people solve these problems and in many cases might prevent a family from becoming homeless and ending up in a shelter.

Please feel free to call me if we can provide any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa Christie
Executive Director

Cc: Elliot Berry

87 PALM STREET
NASHUA, NH 03060-3828
(603) 598-1582
(603) 598-7574 (FAX)

February 5, 2001

FILE

Debra Pignatelli
State Senator
State House – Room 115
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Pignatelli,

Marguerite's Place is totally in support of the proposed bill that you will be introducing to the legislators for the establishment of an office or funding for NH Legal Assistant in the Nashua area.

We are constantly faced with the needs of our women around the legal needs that they have in the areas of restraining orders, child support, divorce and child custody issues. The only recourse that they have at this time is to try for a pro bono lawyer and that requires a waiting period well beyond their court date, at times or to travel up to Concord or Manchester for assistance. Since most of our families do not have cars, it falls to the staff to transport them to these areas for legal assistance. An office in the Nashua area would be such a help to all of the agencies that serve the needy.

We will be happy to do anything that we can to help facilitate this bill's passage. It will be a tremendous help to our families, who are trying so hard to make the future different for themselves and their children.

Sincerely,

Sr. Mary Sharon Walsh GNSH

Sister Mary Sharon Walsh, GNSH
CEO

Board of Directors
John Parolin, Chair
Allstate Insurance Company
Lori Lambert, Vice Chair
Weisman, Tessier & Lambert
Richard Plamondon, Treasurer
St. Joseph Hospital
Kathleen M. Pasko, Secretary
Hollis, NH
Carol Descoteaux, CSC
St. Joseph Hospital
J. Bradford Westgate
Winer and Bennett Law firm
Cheryl Hardman
The Hardman Company
Judith M. Haywood, RN.Ed.D.
D'Youville Manor
Rev. Denis Horan
Diocesan Priest
Gary Marlow
Southern NH Medical Center
Pat Paradis
Prudential Crain Realty
Gena Poulin
Nashua, NH
Vincent Tulley, II
Tulley Auto Group
Sr. June Ketterer, s.g.m.
Liaison for Members

Advisory Members
Margaret Flynn
Superior Court Judge (Retired)
Linda Gerow
UMass Memorial Health Care
Bernie Streeter
Mayor, City of Nashua, NH

Senior Staff
Sharon Walsh, GNSH
CEO
Debra E. Sorli
COO
Elaine Fahey, GNSH
Director of Day Care

Bernard A. Streeter
Mayor
City of Nashua

May 16, 2001

Chairman Henry Mock
House Judiciary Committee
Room 208, LOB
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Mock and Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in support of SB 69, which will establish a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua. New Hampshire Legal Assistance has done admirable work for the citizens of New Hampshire and I feel it would be beneficial for the Southern Region of New Hampshire to have an office that would be more accessible.

As you know, New Hampshire Legal Assistance handles issues ranging from domestic violence, Social Security, housing/homeless and other civil legal cases for needy clients. They have proven to be a great resource for our citizens.

During my term in public service I have been keenly aware of the need for affordable legal assistance for the poor, it is my belief that New Hampshire Legal Aide will provide for that. I respectfully request that you give SB 69 every consideration.

Sincerely,

Bernard A. Streeter
Mayor

C.c Senator Debora Pignatelli
Senator Jane O'Hearn

FILE

229 Main Street • PO Box 2019 • Nashua, NH 03061-2019
(603) 589-3260 • FAX (603) 594-3450 • E-Mail: streeterb@ci.nashua.nh.us

FILE

May 16, 2001

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

I am here to support opening a NH Legal Aid office in Nashua. My name is Susan Mead, and I'm here as a representative of Community Council of Nashua, the local mental health facility for the Greater Nashua area. I also speak for several members of the Continuum of Care-which is a group of local non-profit or public agencies, local churches that have been mandated to address the homelessness issues. Its focus has been to develop a seamless spectrum of available services. In my 15 years of experience, approximately 9 of those years, I have been dedicated to serve the mentally ill population who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. From make shift camps in the woods to the shelters to homes with loved ones suffering from a mental illness, to the State Hospital for the Acute Psychiatric Services, I have personally seen the struggle and challenges this population endures. You would be impressed with their resilient spirit, despite the genetic, environmental, psycho-social histories they were born into. Clearly we are an evolved species who have compassion for the vulnerable ones who clearly need our support mentally, physically, and financially. And, yet, we expect those who have been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness, to be able to survive on the limited income of approximately $600/month and be able to sustain decent, affordable housing, pay for food, electricity, fuel cost, medication, and other health needs. Now that's stretching a dollar. In fact, it really doesn't add up, does it?

Rental vacancy rates are below 1 % in much of the state. Nashua clearly falls into this category. As the NH Hospital Liaison, I am aware of the sparsity of choices for clients who are making the transition back into their own communities. Finding decent, affordable housing from Concord is non existent. Our Crisis Center, meant for brief psychiatric treatment needs, now has several homeless people with no where to go. What do you suppose that does for ones mental health, not knowing where you can "hang your hat". What about those who are currently in the community and may be faced with an eviction due to their odd behaviors, social phobias, or paranoia? As fear is often the result when we do not understand things, I say to you now that the general public does not appreciate the complex issues involved when it comes to mental illness. People who have a mental illness become easy victims in our society if not properly advocated for. I believe this is an

opportunity for this committee to speak for those who may not have the voice to stand up for themselves and to show that there is still compassion for the truly vulnerable ones.

Nashua is the second largest city in the state. With every city, town, and neighborhood there are issues dealing with mental illness, domestic violence, unmet health concerns due to lack of having the "right" insurance policies. It would be not only pro-active for this committee to take the side of the underprivileged but the honorable thing to do. Are you aware of the cost for a client to stay one day at NH Hospital? It's over $500/day. Interestingly this amount is almost the cost the State pays for a persistent mental ill person a month. Do you not think it would behoove us all to support those who face daily challenges in having a mental illness and advocate for them being able to stay in their apartment, and in the community where their supports and families are, versus the alternative of yet dealing with an other mentally ill person faced with homelessness. Legal Aid not only assists with this population, but it also helps with the domestic abuse cases, disability rights, unmet health care issues. Please do the right thing and support those who would not normally fight for themselves, by voting for an office where their concerns will be heard and care for as they should be.

I understand this committee is the place that can effect positive change for the truly vulnerable. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Susan Mead

Susan Mead, MA
Outreach Coordinator

next | Prev | Results List | Main | Bill Status

HB121 Docket

Bill Title: establishing a committee to study methods of reducing the cost of obtaining justice for low-income citizens.

Date	Body	Description
1/3/2001	H	Introduced and ref to Judiciary; HJ9, p92
1/3/2001	H	Copy to Chairman on 12/28/2000
1/3/2001	H	Hearing Jan 9 1:00 RM208,LOB (NOTE ROOM CHANGE)
1/16/2001	H	Maj Report OTP for Jan 25 (vote 13-5;CC)
1/25/2001	H	Passed; HJ15, p179 + 185
2/22/2001	S	Introduced and Ref. to Judiciary; SJ 5, Pg.60
4/4/2001	S	Hearing; April 11, 2001, Room 103, LOB, 10:45 a.m.; SC16
4/17/2001	S	Committee Report; Ought to Pass, 04/19/01; SC19
4/19/2001	S	Ought to Pass, MA, VV; OT3rdg, MA, VV; SJ 10, Pg.131
5/3/2001	H	Enrolled; HJ47, p1417
5/9/2001	S	Enrolled; SJ 12, Pg.263
5/15/2001	H	Signed by the Governor on 5/15/2001 Eff: 5/15/2001 Chap: 0020

next | Prev | Results List | Main | Bill Status

Docket Abbreviations

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 69-FN-A-L

BILL TITLE: **relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.**

DATE: May 23, 2001

LOB ROOM: LOB 208

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: (OTP) OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Craig

Seconded by Rep. Jean

Vote: 14-0 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: 14-0

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Terri C. Dudley, Clerk

Terri C Dudley

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2001 SESSION

JUDICIARY

Bill #: SB69-FN-A-L Title: Relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making appropriation therefor

PH Date: 05/16/2001

Exec Session Date: 05/23/2001

Motion: OTP

Amendment #:

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Mock, Henry P, Chairman	✓	
Jean, Loren J, Vice Chairman	✓	
Jacobson, Alf E		
Eergin, Peter F		
Rowe, Robert H	✓	
Ford, Nancy M	✓	
Dudley, Terri C	✓	
Soltani, Tony F		
Woods, Phyllis L		
Rice, Thomas	✓	
Leishman, Peter R	✓	
Elliott, Larry G		
Reid, Christopher P	✓	
Wall, Janet G	✓	
Pratt, John M	✓	
Craig, James W	✓	
Wood, Jane		
Potter, Frances D	✓	
Espiefs, Peter S	✓	
Franklin, Peter E	✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	14	0

Printed: 12/27/2000

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 69-FN-A-L

BILL TITLE: **relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.**

DATE: May 24, 2001

LOB ROOM: LOB 208

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Craig OLS Document #: 2001 1306h

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.) RECONSIDERATION

Moved by Rep. Wall

Seconded by Rep. Wood

Vote: 19-0 VOICE VOTE

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.) ACCEPT AMENDMENT 1306h ONLY

Moved by Rep. Pratt

Seconded by Rep. Craig

Vote: 18-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Craig

Seconded by Rep. Pratt

Vote: 17-2 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: NO

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Terri C. Dudley, Clerk

Terri C Dudley

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2001 SESSION

:DICIARY

ll #: SB69-FN-A-L Title: relative to establishing legal assistance in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor

H Date: 05/16/2001 Exec Session Date: 05/24/2001

lotion: Amend Amendment #: 1306h

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
lock, Henry P, Chairman	✓	
:an, Loren J, Vice Chairman	✓	
:cobson, Alf E	✓	
ergin, Peter F	✓	
.owe, Robert H	✓	
'ord, Nancy M	✓	
)udley, Terri C	✓	
:oltani, Tony F	ABSENT	
Woods, Phyllis L	✓	
Rice, Thomas	✓	
Leishman, Peter R	✓	
Elliott, Larry G	✓	
Reid, Christopher P		✓
Wall, Janet G	✓	
Pratt, John M	✓	
Craig, James W	✓	
Wood, Jane	✓	
Potter, Frances D	✓	
Espiefs, Peter S	✓	
Franklin, Peter E	✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	18	01

Printed: 12/27/2000

2/

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2001 SESSION

JUDICIARY

Bill #: SB69-FN-A-L Title: relative to establishing legal assistance in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor

PH Date: 05/16/2001 Exec Session Date: 05/24/2001

Motion: OTP/A Amendment #: 2001-1306h

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Mock, Henry P, Chairman	✓	
Jean, Loren J, Vice Chairman	✓	
Jacobson, Alf E	✓	
Bergin, Peter F	✓	
Rowe, Robert H	✓	
Ford, Nancy M	✓	
Dudley, Terri C	✓	
Soltani, Tony F		
Woods, Phyllis L		✓
Rice, Thomas	✓	
Leishman, Peter R		✓
Elliott, Larry G	✓	
Reid, Christopher P	✓	
Wall, Janet G	✓	
Pratt, John M	✓	
Craig, James W	✓	
Wood, Jane	✓	
Potter, Frances D	✓	
Espiefs, Peter S	✓	
Franklin, Peter E	✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	17	02

Printed: 12/27/2000

Committee Report

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Judiciary**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 69-FN-A-L**

TITLE: relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.

DATE: May 23, 2001 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☒ NO ☐

☒ OUGHT TO PASS

☐ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☐ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

☐ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

This bill appropriates the sum of $315,000.00 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002 and the sum of $315,000.00 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 to NH Legal Assistance in order to establish a Nashua Office. Legal Assistance provides civil legal services to low income people on housing, social services, health care, domestic violence and consumer issues. It's attorneys provide excellent legal services to our state's population that needs it most yet can least afford to pay for it. The bill authorizes the Governor to draw a warrant for the above sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Vote 14-0.

Rep. James Craig
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

CONSENT CALENDAR

Judiciary

SB 69-FN-A-L, relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS**

Rep. James Craig for Judiciary: This bill appropriates the sum of $315,000.00 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002 and the sum of $315,000.00 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 to NH Legal Assistance in order to establish a Nashua Office. Legal Assistance provides civil legal services to low income people on housing, social services, health care, domestic violence and consumer issues. It's attorneys provide excellent legal services to our state's population that needs it most yet can least afford to pay for it. The bill authorizes the Governor to draw a warrant for the above sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. **Vote 14-0.**

SB 69 FN RELATIVE TO A NH LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE IN NASHUA AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.

THIS BILL APPROPRIATES THE SUM OF $315,000.00 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2002 AND THE SUM OF $315,000.00 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2003 TO NH LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NASHUA OFFICE.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDES CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES TO LOW INCOME PEOPLE ON HOUSING, SOCIAL SECURITY, HEALTH CARE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CONSUMER ISSUES.

IT'S ATTORNEYS PROVIDE EXCELLENT LEGAL SERVICES TO OUR STATE'S POPULATION THAT NEEDS IT MOST YET CAN LEAST AFFORD TO PAY FOR IT.

THE BILL AUTHORIZES THE TREASURER TO DRAW A WARRANT FOR ~~THE AMOUNT~~ THE ABOVE SUMS OUT OF ANY MONEY IN THE TREASURY NOT OTHERWISE APPROPRIATED.

CRAIG 8/23/01

ole
HARVEY

Rafino

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Judiciary**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 69-FN-A-L**

TITLE: relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor.

DATE: May 24, 2001 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☒ NO ☒

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☒ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 1306h

☐ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

☐ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

This bill establishes a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua to service that city and its surrounding areas. New Hampshire Legal Assistance provides legal services to low income people such as housing, social security, and other government benefits, health care, domestic violence and consumer issues. It does not provide representation for criminal actions. This is a means to get basic legal services to those who need them most yet are least able to pay for them.

Vote 17-2.

Rep. James W. Craig
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

CONSENT CALENDAR

Judiciary

SB 69-FN-A-L, relative to a New Hampshire legal assistance office in Nashua and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

Rep. James W. Craig for Judiciary: This bill establishes a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua to service that city and its surrounding areas. New Hampshire Legal Assistance provides legal services to low income people such as housing, social security, and other government benefits, health care, domestic violence and consumer issues. It does not provide representation for criminal actions. This is a means to get basic legal services to those who need them most yet are least able to pay for them. **Vote 17-2.**

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

BILL NUMBER: SB69-FN-A-L

TITLE: _____

_____

DATE: 05/24/2001 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ___ NO X

___ OUGHT TO PASS

X OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

___ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

___ RE-REFER

___ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

_____

_____

_____

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_____

Vote. 17-02

Rep. Lewis C Dudley
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

SB 69 DLPB

RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE IN THE CITY OF NASHUA.

THIS BILL ESTABLISHES A NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE IN NASHUA TO SERVICE THAT CITY AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDES LEGAL SERVICES TO LOW INCOME PEOPLE SUCH AS HOUSING (Housing) SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT BENEFITS, HEALTH CARE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CONSUMER ISSUES. IT DOES NOT PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

THIS IS A MEANS TO GET BASIC LEGAL SERVICES TO WHO NEED THEM MOST YET ARE LEAST ABLE TO PAY FOR THEM.

CRAIG

OR HAM

5/23/

OTP/A Consent

17-2

Other Referrals

- The Chairmen of the policy committees will receive bills amended by the Senate and should check with their committees to determine whether the committee will concur, non-concur, or request a Committee of Conference.

- When a committee requests that the bill be sent to a Committee of Conference, the Speaker generally will appoint members from those committees that have heard the bill. Chairmen will recommend members for appointment. If the bill has gone to more than one committee, the members may come from the different committees. Chairmen should recommend only those members from their policy committees. In the case of a bill which has gone to a policy committee and Finance, one slot is generally reserved on the four member Committee of Conference for a member from the Finance Committee.

- For House bills in Committee of Conference, the House Committee of Conference Chairman shall set the time and place of the first meeting and shall chair each meeting of the Committee of Conference. Each meeting shall be posted in the Clerk's Office and outside the committee room at least 24 hours in advance.(House Rule 43(c)) *All other committee or subcommittee meetings at which decisions are made or information is received shall be advertised in the House Calendar or, if scheduled after the calendar deadline, shall be posted in the Clerk's Office and outside the committee room at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.*

- The House and Senate Committees of Conference on a bill shall meet jointly but vote separately while in conference.

- The Committee of Conference may not change the title of the bill. The Committee also may not add amendments to the bill which are not germane to the subject matter of the bill or contain subject matter that has been indefinitely postponed. A non-germane amendment is one in which the subject matter is not contained in either the House or Senate version of the bill.(House Rule 49 (b)) *No member of a Committee of Conference shall sign any report which contains non-germane amendments or*

subject matter that has been indefinitely postponed in either house. For the purpose of this rule, a non-germane amendment is any subject matter not contained in either the House or Senate version of the bill.

- The sponsor of a bill which is in Committee of Conference shall, upon request, be provided an opportunity to be heard.

- A unanimous vote of both the House and Senate Committees of Conference voting separately is necessary for an agreed upon report to be sent to the House and Senate.

- Reports of all Committees of Conference must be filed with the Office of Legislative Services by the deadline adopted by the House in Rule 64. All Committee of Conference members must sign all Committee of Conference reports in the Office of Legislative Services.

- The first-named House member on all bills in Committee of Conference must prepare an analysis of the report for printing in the House Calendar. This statement should contain a complete explanation of all changes made to the bill since it was passed by the House. This will be submitted to the House Clerk's Office for printing in the calendar.

- All Committee of Conference reports shall be distributed in seat pockets to be acted on some subsequent day. (House Rule 49 (a)). *Committee-of-Conference reports shall be distributed to be acted on some subsequent day.*

- A Committee of Conference report on either a House or Senate bill may be placed on the Consent Calendar only upon a unanimous vote of all House conferees.(House Rule 49 (d)). *A Committee-of-Conference report may be placed on the Consent Calendar only by a unanimous vote of all House conferees.*