Bill as Introduced

SB 69-FN-A-LOCAL – AS INTRODUCED

2001 SESSION

01-0802
09/01

HOUSE 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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

SB 69-FN-A-LOCAL – AS INTRODUCED

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 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.

Committee Minutes

Date: February 6, 2001
Time: 2:00 pm
Room: SH 105-A

The Senate Committee on Public Affairs held a hearing on the following:

SB 69-FN-A-LOCAL relative to a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in nashua and making an appropriation therefor.

Members of Committee present: Senator Roberge
Senator O'Neil
Senator Francoeur
Senator Disnard

The Chair, Senator Sheila Roberge, opened the hearing.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: I would like to open up the hearing on Senate Bill 69 and call upon the prime sponsor, Senator Pignatelli.

Senator Debora B. Pignatelli, D. 13: Thank you, Senator Roberge. Good afternoon, Senator O'Neil and Senator Disnard. I see you dug yourself out from your twenty-eight inches.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Twenty-seven inches.

Senator Debora B. Pignatelli, D. 13: I am Deborah Pignatelli. I represent district 13 in Nashua and I am very happy today to bring you Senate Bill 69-FN-A-L, which is a bill relative to establishing. . . re-establishing actually the New Hampshire Legal Assistance Office in Nashua and making an appropriation for that office.

John Tobin, who is the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Legal Assistance Offices, is here to give you all of the statistics and facts and figures that you may have questions about; but, I am very proud to be the prime sponsor of this bill.

I think that it could benefit the people of the Nashua area, not just Nashua but the surrounding areas, in terms of helping our low income people and our elderly citizens with their legal needs.

Sometimes, we here about someone in danger of losing their job and they have young children and if they lose their job or lose their housing, they sometimes lose their children because they are now negligent and they don't have a place to live and then they lose their job. And it starts a downward spiral and if we could give them some legal assistance at the very beginning of a problem that they have, it can sometimes prevent huge problems that could happen as a result of a rather small initial problem.

So, with that, I think that I will leave you in the hands of John Tobin and I see that Senator Gordon is here also, perhaps to testify in favor of this bill. Thank you very much.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Questions? Thank you. Senator Gordon did you care to testify?

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: I will let Attorney Tobin testify and then I will defer to him and speak after him perhaps.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Certainly.

John Tobin: Good afternoon.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Good afternoon. Thank you.

John Tobin: This is a fact sheet and some attachments, which I will run through briefly (Attachment A).

I am John Tobin. I am the Director of the New Hampshire Legal Assistance. What we do is, we provide legal services in civil cases, not criminal cases, to low income and elderly people. The public defender does the criminal cases and we work closely with the BAR Associations pro bono program.

We have four offices. One of them in Manchester, one in Claremont, one Littleton, and one in Portsmouth. We don't have an office in Nashua. Nashua is the second biggest city in the state. There is a great need there for some of the reasons that Senator Pignatelli outlined.

What this is about is a constituent service for the people in the Nashua area. And what we are proposing is a Nashua office with a Salem satellite and the papers I am giving you (Attachment A), the cover is sort of a facts sheet that

talks a little bit about us and our eligibility and our other funding and the record that we have.

Four years ago the state gave a first time appropriation for civil legal services and we used that money to reopen an office in the north country in Littleton. That office has worked very well. You serve a lot of pour people and elderly people up there. We have two attorneys, an a paralegal and a secretary in Littleton and we have a part time store front office in Berlin.

What we would like to do is replicate that on a somewhat. . . a little bit larger scale in Nashua and Salem and the kinds of cases that we do: domestic violence, housing, homelessness, social security, disability, Medicare, Medicaid. Very vulnerable people with urgent problems about their housing, their health care, their safety. That is the kind of work we do.

We . . . one of the things that we are most proud of, is we get support from ten United Ways around the state and each of those is. . . the funding decisions are made by citizen groups, who think that we are worthy of their hard earned and donated money. And one of the places we get support is the Nashua United Way, the second document in the packet that I have given you (Attachment A) is a letter from the President of the Nashua United Way attesting to the fact that the social service network in Nashua thinks that this is a good idea to expand our services.

After that is a copies. . . excerpts of a survey that the Nashua United Way with a bunch of other agencies did about a bunch of needs in the Nashua region. And what I have done is highlighted . . . legal services for the poor comes up pretty high on this list; but, the problems that we have worked on come up even higher. That is the sheet with the green and the yellow magic marker.

The next sheet is also from our Nashua United Way application and the reason that I give you that is because it gives you an indication of what we accomplish for people and this is just in one category of cases: disability cases.

The United Way asks us: well, we just don't want to know what cases you do, we want to know what difference it makes for your clients. And in disability cases you can see if you look in the box on the right, in one-twelfth month year across the state, we got almost eight hundred thousand dollars in disability benefits for our clients.

That is federal money that comes into our needy clients hands and then goes out into our community. Those clients use that money to pay their doctor

bills and pay their rent and pay their light bill, buy food. Just in the Nashua area alone, there are almost 70,000 in disability benefits and that doesn't even count the value of Medicare which comes along with that and it. . . disability cases are only about eight percent of our cases; but, it shows what we can accomplish for people.

The next page is an excerpt from our United Way application that shows what we are doing in that area now, basically, we are devoting about a half of a person to the United Way. The chart near the bottom shows the number of persons that we have helped and the number of hours that we have spent. That is really a drop in the bucket for the need. We think that we can do more.

The next letter is a letter from the President of the Nashua BAR. This is long ago and far away the legal assistance had an office in Nashua, as a result of another funding crisis, we closed it. We should be back there. We would work closely with the pro-bono program in the Nashua BAR to stretch what we do.

The final page is a budget page and we have worked up three different budgets and what I would really like to do is stretch the budget so that we can have three lawyers in Nashua and a paralegal and have a part time office in Salem.

And one of the things that we have said all along is that we would put our seventeen thousand dollars that we get from the Nashua United Way into the pot. So, this bill asks for three-fifteen. We would add seventeen. The budget on the far right with three lawyers comes up to three hundred and forty-nine.

We are going to see if we can find some free space in Nashua. We have money in here for rent and rent is high in Nashua; but, if we find free space and we also think maybe the Nashua United Way might give us a one time money for some of the furniture.

We are going to try and stretch this to get it to be three lawyers and a paralegal and some secretaries. And what they will be doing is, they will be working on civil cases for poor people and elderly people. The kinds of cases that we do again, two quick vignettes of Nashua clients.

One was a woman who worked at digital for a number of years. Got hurt, went back, couldn't stick with it, had back problems and other problems that came to arthritis. Tried to work at home. Got a zoning change, so that she could work at home. Still she still couldn't cut it.

Eventually applied for disability benefits. Social security denied, we went up the appeal process and back down. Eventually, we won her case. She is going to get Medicare, retro-active benefits, so she is going to get health insurance and something to live on.

Another case, involving a young woman who had been on welfare. She went back to work. She had a housing subsidy. Subsidy kept being miscalculated. She kept saying that she owed more, they would give her notice that she was going to lose the subsidy.

It turns out, we got involved, they were calculating it wrong, they owed her money. She got to keep the subsidy. She is working, she is supporting herself. Two really quick stories about the kinds of work that we do.

I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have about legal assistance or about what we proposed to do in Nashua and Salem.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Questions? Senator Disnard.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Will the eleven communities listed in Nashua area also be involved?

John Tobin: Yeah, those communities. . . we will serve that area and our thought is, we would serve those eleven communities and Salem and Windham and Pelham which are between Salem and Nashua.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Further question?

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Further question.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: What areas in the state if this was approved would not be covered?

John Tobin: Well, we try to cover all the areas now. There is no area that we don't cover; but, right now our Manchester office covers Laconia, Concord, Manchester and Nashua. It is a huge load. It is where the most people are and the most demand is.

So, we try to cover it; but, we don't do as good a job as we could.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Thank you.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Any other questions? Thank you.

John Tobin: Thank you.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: John MacIntosh.

John MacIntosh: Madame Chair, Senator Gordon is here, I would be happy to. . .

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: No, go ahead.

John MacIntosh: I will be very brief. I represent the New Hampshire BAR Association. President of the BAR asked me to testify today strongly in support of this legislation. The BAR contributes lively through the debt program and through the pro-bono program and reduce . . . programs to assist people of low income and more elderly.

But, frankly it is not enough and there are certain areas in law that are so specialized that you need attorneys, who are trained in specific areas, so they can afford it and that is exactly the kind of work that the New Hampshire Legal Assistance does.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Senator Gordon.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: Thank you, Madame Chair and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Ned Gordon. I represent Senate District 2, which consists of thirty-two towns in Grafton and Belknap Counties.

And I come in support of the bill. And I don't come in any other capacity other than as an individual today and I do that because I know the importance of the service of the New Hampshire Legal Assistance provides to the people of the state.

Generally, I am fairly parochial and that is that, unless the money is going to be spent in the north country, generally I don't support it. But, in this particular case, even though I see that the money is going to be spent in Nashua, I am here today supporting it.

And I support it, because the people of the state need it. Nashua and the Nashua area, the second largest municipal area in the state although covered out of the Manchester office, it deserves to have its own office of New Hampshire Legal Assistance.

You only have to have exposure to the people who work in New Hampshire Legal Assistance for a short period of time to realize what an important service that they provide.

I am an attorney. About half of the work that I do is estate planning. I do lots of work with elderly citizens without a lot. And it is a very specialized area of the law. It is complicated. You have to deal with government regulation and you need to be well informed and you need to be up-to-date. You need to have a specialized attorney such as provided by New Hampshire Legal Assistance.

Many of the elderly are in circumstances where they can not afford to provide for their own legal assistance for their own legal services. And they go out looking for a lawyer and they are very often frustrated, because they can't find someone who knows how to solve their problem and if they do find someone, they can't afford to pay it.

And New Hampshire Legal Assistance provides them with an extremely valuable service. It provides us all with valuable service.

I know that there have been issues in the past with regard to the New Hampshire Legal Assistance and the fact that they have on many occasions acted to what we might consider the detriment of the state. And that is that they might bring suit against the state or have in the past for specific issues, where they don't feel the state is honoring for . . . carrying out the duties that it is supposed to

And I come before you to say that, I don't believe that the monies that would be appropriated in this particular case would be for that purpose. But, even if they were, I would be here and supporting it.

Recently, I would tell you that . . . many of you may have heard of a case called the Dufosee's Case and this was a case where in the past where if one of the spouses in a household received Medicaid benefits what would happen is after that spouse died the state would come and place a lien on their property on their real estate, while the other spouse was still living there. Preventing in many cases that spouse from selling the home, moving on and doing other things.

And New Hampshire Legal Assistance properly recognized that this was just not fair and wasn't right. That these people who had worked all their lives to acquire what little wealth they had, then had to in essence become servants of the state by virtue of the fact that we tied up their property.

They brought suit and as a result of that suit, that system is no longer in place and that people, particularly the elderly, low income elderly who would qualify for Medicaid generally not having substantial amounts of assets, can at least go out of their life with some measure of dignity and at least keep their homes in tact or the assets that are generated by their homes in tact in those cases.

And to that, I commend them. I just think this. . . New Hampshire Legal Assistance is important. It provides something that an ordinary attorney isn't going to provide for a class of people that ordinarily wouldn't be a service by attorney's.

We provide as attorneys . . . we provide a huge amount of pro-bono services. I am always curious of other professions that come in looking for benefits and always curious to ask what they provide in terms of pro-bono services.

I think that you are going to find that members of the BAR, lawyers in this state provide lots of pro-bono services. I provide lots of pro-bono services. Sometimes, my partner thinks that everything I do is pro-bono service. But, I provide lots of pro-bono services as do most of the attorneys. But, this is for a special niche, a special category and I don't know if we can find money in the budget to do it, but if we can find money in the budget, I certainly would encourage us to do it and make it a priority.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Questions? Thank you. Yes, Senator Pignatelli.

Senator Debora B. Pignatelli, D. 13: I just forgot to mention something and I am wondering if I can come up again?

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Sure.

Senator Debora B. Pignatelli, D. 13: I spoke with three heads of agencies yesterday in Nashua, because, although I am convinced that this is a needed service in Nashua and that our people could benefit from it, I wanted to get an idea whether the leaders of Human Services in Nashua also felt the same way.

So, I called three yesterday. I only called three and I spoke with Lisa Christie at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter and she was very excited about the possibility of having a Legal Assistance office in Nashua, because she knows that the people that frequent the soup kitchen and there are many and the shelter could benefit from the services that Legal Assistance provides.

And then, I also spoke to Peter Kelleher, who is the head of our Harbor Homes in Nashua. People that are mentally challenged and he said that he was happy to hear about this and that he is the chair of a continuum of care consortium that meets and that is thirty agencies. They are meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, and he is going to bring up this possibility of having Legal Assistance in Nashua. But, he felt pretty sure that all thirty agencies would be supportive of a Legal Assistance office in Nashua.

And then I spoke to Sister Sharon Walsh, who is the head of Marguerite's Place in Nashua. You probably have heard of it Senator Francoeur. It is a . . it is an apartment, a very small apartment complex for women who are very young, who have become mothers and are parenting alone and she was very happy to hear about this as well.

All three of these people are going to be writing letters of support. Of course, I couldn't get them here today and Peter Kelleher, probably will be writing that his thirty agencies support Legal Assistance office. He also mentioned the possibility of providing either reduced rent space or free rent space in Nashua. So, that would be a big part of the budget that we might be able to remove, if we could somehow see our way clear to supporting this agency in Nashua.

So, with that, I am finished unless you have any questions for me.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Thank you.

Senator Debora B. Pignatelli, D. 13: Thank you.

Senator Sheila Roberge, D. 9: Is there anybody else here who wants to speak? Okay, we will close the hearing on Senate Bill 69.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Lynn Sharp,
Senate Secretary.

((A))

SB 69 FN LOC

New Hampshire Legal Assistance Fact Sheet

Mission: NHLA provides legal services to low income and elderly people in civil cases involving housing, Social Security and SSI disability benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, VA benefits, domestic violence, 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).

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 Littleton 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.

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.

A Nashua office, with a Salem satellite: 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

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%.

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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 fort 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%

III. PROGRAM IMPACT

A. Program Outcomes

Complete the following tables. Other information, such as logic models, may be attached. (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.

B. Persons to be Served/Units of Service

Estimate the number of persons to be served by the program (an unduplicated count) that will be assisted with the requested United Way funds. Provide an estimate of the number of units of service to be provided with United Way support (if different from persons). Define unit below. (Limit response to space provided.)

Number of persons to be assisted with United Way funds: **861**

Number of units of service to be assisted by United Way funds: **861**

Units of Service = Clients and household members provided with:

- information and/or referral,
- legal advice,
- brief service (third party contact), or
- representation

C. Towns Served

List the number of persons by the program last year from the towns in United Way's service area and elsewhere (an unduplicated count). If a new program, make an estimate for those to be served. Indicate time period used: **Jan - Dec 2000**

UW Town	Cases	Household Members	TOTAL NASHUA UW PERSONS	TOTAL NASHUA UW HOURS
Amherst	12	29	29	4.50
Brookline	5	8	8	11.60
Hollis	1	1	1	0
Hudson	41	63	63	51.25
Lyndeboro	2	4	4	7.50
Litchfield	10	18	18	3.50
Merrimack	58	93	93	70.15
Milford	32	45	45	67.50
Mont Vernon	5	9	9	106.40
Nashua	329	571	571	777.60
Wilton	10	20	20	60.30
UW TOTALS	**505**	**861**	**861**	**1160.3**
Other NH Towns	9,428	15,544		
TOTALS	**9,933**	**16,405**		

D. Other Impact Areas

Does this program relate to other Impact Areas? If so, specify the Impact Area numbers and titles.

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE
Alternate Budgets for New Nashua Office
2/5/01

	ONE		TWO		THREE	
	proposed Nashua	proposed Salem	proposed Nashua	proposed Salem	proposed Nashua	proposed Salem
	atty @49,750+1,500 .5 atty @39,250 para @30,700 secy @28,100+1,000 .8 secy @30,500	.5 atty @39,250	atty @42,250+1,500 .5 atty @39,250 atty @31,000 para @30,700 secy @28,100+1,000	.5 atty @39,250	atty @42,250+1,500 .5 atty @39,250 atty @31,000 para @30,700 secy @28,100+1,000 .5 secy @ 26,500	.5 atty @39,250
salaries	155,075	19,625	154,175	19,625	167,425	19,625
taxes & benefits	43,934	5,560	43,678	5,560	47,432	5,560
sub-total personnel	199,009	25,185	197,853	25,185	214,857	25,185
space & occupancy	30,500	3,800	30,500	3,800	31,250	3,800
office supplies & exp	4,500	400	4,500	400	5,000	400
postage	2,000	100	2,000	100	2,400	100
equipment rental & maint.	4,500	1,800	4,500	1,800	4,500	1,800
telephone/data	7,200	3,400	7,200	3,400	8,200	3,400
library & comptr resrch	9,700	500	9,700	500	9,700	500
training	4,000	0	4,000	0	4,500	0
insurances	1,650	300	1,650	300	1,950	300
dues	1,600	0	2,000	0	2,000	0
legal costs for clients	1,500	0	1,500	0	1,800	0
temporaries	0	0	0	0	0	0
local travel	3,000	1,200	3,000	1,200	3,600	1,200
miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0
sub-total expenses	70,150	11,500	70,550	11,500	74,900	11,500
total on-going cost	269,159	36,685	268,403	36,685	289,757	36,685
	total both offices	305,844	total both offices	305,088	total both offices	326,442
computers	6,000	1,200	6,000	1,200	7,200	1,200
phone/data equip & cables	4,500	500	4,500	500	5,400	500
desks	1,750	350	1,750	350	2,100	350
computer stands	1,250	250	1,250	250	1,500	250
desk chairs	1,000	200	1,000	200	1,200	200
guest chairs	1,255	280	1,255	280	1,535	280
filing cabinets	700	139	700	139	839	139
bookcases	380	95	380	95	475	95
sub-total fit-up	16,835	3,014	16,835	3,014	20,249	3,014
	total both offices	19,849	total both offices	19,849	total both offices	23,263
total 1st year	285,994	39,699	285,238	39,699	310,006	39,699
	total both offices	325,693	total both offices	324,937	total both offices	349,705

New Hampshire Legal Assistance
Case Statistics

The following chart shows our case distribution by subject matter for the entire state:

2000 Cases and Persons Helped by Problem Type			
Problem Type	**No. of Cases**	**No. of Persons Helped**	**Percentage of Total**
Consumer	1,107	5,570	11.13%
Education	23	55	.23%
Employment	219	267	2.20%
Family	2,887	4,702	29.05%
Health	735	1,118	7.40%
Housing	2,516	4,484	25.32%
Income Maintenance	721	1,539	7.35%
Individual Rights	203	418	2.03%
Juvenile	58	114	.57%
Wills and Estates	323	475	3.24%
Miscellaneous	1,141	1,559	11.48%
TOTAL	**9,933****	**20,301**	**100.00%**

Speakers

SENATE Public Affairs COMMITTEE

Date 02/06/01 Time 2:00 **PM** Public Hearing on SB 69-FN-A-L

Appearing in FAVOR: *(Please print)* ***Please check box at left to speak.***

Speaking?	*Name*	*Address*	*Representing*
☒	John Tobin	1361 Elm St Manchester NH 03101	NH Legal Assistance
☐	Sheila Evans	NH Women's Lobby	Concord NH
☒	JOHN MACINTOSH	NH BAR ASSOCIATION	CONCORD NH
☒	Ted Gordon	Bristol	NH Senate Dist 2
☐			
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Appearing in OPPOSITION: *(Please Print)* ***Please check box at left to speak.***

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Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: March 27, 2001

THE COMMITTEE ON Public Affairs

to which was referred Senate Bill 69-FN-A-L

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

VOTE: 5-0

Having considered the same, report the same without amendment and recommend that the bill: **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator Gary R. Francoeur
For the Committee

SB69 Docket

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

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

Date	Body	Description
1/4/2001	**S**	Introduced and Ref. to Public Affairs; SJ 2, Pg.26
1/25/2001	**S**	Hearing; February 6, 2001, Room 105-A, SH, 2:00 p.m.; SC4
3/28/2001	**S**	Committee Report; Ought to Pass [03/29/01], SC15
3/29/2001	**S**	Ought to Pass, MA, VV; Refer to Finance [Rule 24]; SJ 7, Pg.79
5/7/2001	**S**	Committee Report; Ought to Pass, [05/09/01]

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

Docket Abbreviations