

**CHAPTER 269****RAPE CRISIS CENTERS****§1661. Legislative intent**

The Legislature finds that rape and sexual assault are crimes of violence that are both underreported and increasing in incidence; that victims of rape need support services and counseling that are currently unavailable from traditional medical or legal institutions; that the recent formation of local and regional rape crisis centers has provided rape and sexual assault victims with vital counseling and intervention services; and that the volunteer efforts of these and future rape crisis centers shall be supported and enhanced on a statewide basis, if possible. The Legislature declares that it is consistent with public policy to fund counseling and preventive educational programs by rape crisis centers. [PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).

**§1662. Funds**

**1. Purposes.** The Department of Health and Human Services may receive and disburse funds made available to it for financial support grants or contracts to rape crisis centers for the following purposes:

A. Direct crisis intervention counseling of rape and sexual assault victims; [PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).]

B. Programs to support a sexual assault victim's interaction with medical, psychological and legal professionals; [PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).]

C. Programs to advocate and work with the sexual assault victim throughout the court process, but not to provide legal services; and [PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).]

D. Programs to educate and train the public on rape and sexual assault prevention. [PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

**2. Geographic coverage.** Insofar as practicable, the department shall make funds available to all areas of the State.

[PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).]

**3. Local match.** Any rape crisis center which applies for funds under this chapter shall demonstrate a match of either private donations, local funding or in-kind resources in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services' policies.

[PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV).

**§1663. Rules**

The Commissioner of Health and Human Services is authorized and directed to adopt rules to implement this chapter to reflect widely accepted and current services that are presently provided. The commissioner shall consult with organizations who counsel rape victims, the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and other appropriate parties and shall make allocations based on these recommendations. [PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. B, §7 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §7 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 127, §B7 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B7 (REV).

**§1664. Lapse**

Funds made available to the department for the purposes of this chapter, whether from state, federal or private sources, shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year to be expended for the same purposes. [PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 826, §1 (NEW).

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