

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Legislative Document No. 1134
H.P. 880 House of Representatives, March 9, 1983
Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Representative Carter of Winslow, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative Connolly of Portland.
STATE OF MAINE
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
AN ACT to Establish a Program of Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
22 MRSA c.1053-A is enacted to read:
CHAPTER 1053-A
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
§3761. Emergency assistance
The department shall administer and operate a program of emergency assistance to needy families with children within the United States Social Security Act, Title IV-A, Section 406(e) and any amendments and additions thereto.

1 This program shall provide benefits to families 2 in emergency situations in which the family is 3 deprived of the basic necessities essential to their 4 support, including, but not limited to, utility 5 terminations, lack of adequate shelter, fire and 6 other natural disasters.

STATEMENT OF FACT

8 The United States Social Security Act offers 9 states the opportunity to participate in a program 10 that provides emergency assistance to needy families 11 with children. The program is financed with 50% fed-12 eral dollars and must be matched with 50% state 13 dollars.

14 Many of the emergency situations presently ad-15 dressed under this program must be resolved through 16 the municipal general assistance program which is funded locally with property tax revenue and supple-17 18 mented with state money only after a certain level of program expenditure has been made. Often people's 19 needs are not adequately met under the general assis-20 21 tance program.

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to participate in the federal emergency assistance program. Doing so will lessen the financial burden on our municipalities and provide a more adequate program of assistance for families in emergency situations.

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