MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied (searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 2 3 4 5	(EMERGENCY) (New Title) (New draft of H.P. 647, L.D. 816) FIRST REGULAR SESSION
6 7	ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
8 9	Legislative Document No. 1495
10	H.P. 1136 House of Representatives, April 22, 1983
11	Reported by Representative Carter from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and printed under Joint Rule 2.
12	Original bill presented by Representative Kiesman of Fryeburg. Cosponsored by Senator Diamond of Cumberland, Senator Perkins of
13	Hancock and Representative Connolly of Portland.
	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
14	
15 16	STATE OF MAINE
17 18 19	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
20 21 22 23 24 25	AN ACT to Provide Legislative Participation in the Allocation of Consumer Settlements and for Allocation of Funds for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.
26 27 28	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis- lature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
29 30 31	Whereas, the State has received \$1,450,000 from settlements of oil overcharge cases and will receive considerably more money in the near future; and
32 33 34	Whereas, the Legislature is the branch of government whose members have been elected to allocate revenues and protect the public interest; and

1 2 3	Whereas, there is an urgent need to allocate consumer settlements in the best interest of the State consistent with applicable federal requirements; and
4 5 6 7 8 9	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
10 11	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
12	Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1671 is enacted to read:
13	§1671. Federal grants from settlements
14 15 16 17	1. Application. This section shall apply to federal grants that are the result of class action or other litigation that involves the citizens of the State.
18 19 20 21 22 23	2. Allocation. No expenditure may be made from any such grants unless allocation of the funds is recommended by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and approved by the Legislature.
24 25 26	Sec. 2. Allocations of funds. The following funds are allocated from the oil overcharge refund received by the State.
27	1983-1984
28	EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
29	Division of Community Services
30 31	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \$690,000
32 33	Tribal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program 60,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

5 STATEMENT OF FACT

The State has received \$1,450,000 as a result of settlements of oil company overcharges. The money has been allocated to the states by Congress for use in energy programs.

Section 1 of this new draft requires that these federal grants be further allocated by the Legislature. Any legislative allocation would have to be consistent with all federal requirements.

Section 2 of this new draft provides an immediate allocation of \$750,000 to the low income energy assistance programs from a portion of oil overcharge refunds received by the State. This allocation will permit payment of timely eligible applications which were received but unpaid because the programs have already expended their entire allocation for this year. Immediate action will permit the programs to close out the program year in a timely manner without additional administrative costs.

24 3352041583