

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

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Legislative Document

No. 2206

H.P. 1572

House of Representatives, February 10, 1998

**An Act to Assist Municipalities with Ice Storm-related Cleanup and Reduce Unemployment.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke.  
Cosponsored by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot and  
Representatives: CLARK of Millinocket, DUNLAP of Old Town, HATCH of Skowhegan,  
LEMAIRE of Lewiston, McKEE of Wayne, SAXL of Portland, STANLEY of Medway,  
Senator: RAND of Cumberland.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

4  
6           Whereas, the State was ravaged by 2 ice storms in January of  
1998 and has been declared a Federal Disaster Area; and

8           Whereas, these storms caused a tremendous amount of damage  
in municipalities across the State; and

10  
12           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  
14 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

16  
18           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

20           **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1513, sub-§1-I is enacted to read:**

22           1-I. Transfer from Maine Rainy Day Fund: assistance to  
municipalities for ice storm-related cleanup. Notwithstanding  
subsection 2 and section 1585, \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 1997-98  
must be transferred from the available balance in the Maine Rainy  
Day Fund to the Municipal Disaster Assistance Program in the  
Department of Labor to be made available by financial order, upon  
the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of  
the Governor, to be used to assist municipalities with ice  
storm-related cleanup.

30           **Sec. 2. Use of funds by Department of Labor.** All funds  
32 transferred by this Act to the Department of Labor from the Maine  
Rainy Day Fund must be used to assist municipalities with ice  
34 storm-related cleanup. The department shall recruit and refer  
unemployed workers to municipalities to assist in the cleanup.  
36 The department shall reimburse municipalities for the wages and  
fringe benefits of the individuals employed for this purpose.

38           **Sec. 3. Repayment to Maine Rainy Day Fund.** The Department of  
40 Labor shall seek reimbursement of all funds expended pursuant to  
this Act from all available sources, including the Federal  
42 Government. The department shall deposit all funds received as  
reimbursement for funds expended pursuant to this Act, plus all  
44 unused funds received pursuant to this Act, if any, in the Maine  
Rainy Day Fund.

46  
48           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

## SUMMARY

2  
4 This bill provides assistance to municipalities for ice  
6 storm-related cleanup. It transfers \$4,000,000 from the Maine  
8 Rainy Day Fund in fiscal year 1997-98 to the Department of Labor  
10 to enable the department to recruit and refer unemployed workers  
12 to municipalities to assist in the cleanup. The department  
reimburses municipalities for the wages and fringe benefits of  
the individuals employed for this purpose. The department is  
required to seek reimbursement of these funds from all available  
sources, including the Federal Government, and must deposit the  
reimbursed funds in the Maine Rainy Day Fund.