

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 657

H.P. 425

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Modify the Law Governing Municipal General Assistance
by Designating Broadband Internet Access Service and Wireless
Access Point Technology as Basic Necessities**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SIMMONS of Waldoboro.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 126, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Basic necessities.** "Basic necessities" means food, potable water, clothing, shelter,
5 fuel, electricity, nonelective medical services as recommended by a physician,
6 nonprescription drugs, telephone ~~where~~ when it is necessary for medical reasons,
7 broadband Internet access service, wireless access point technology and any other
8 commodity or service determined essential by the overseer in accordance with the
9 municipality's ordinance and this chapter. "Basic necessities" ~~do~~ does not include security
10 deposits for rental property, except for emergency purposes. For the purposes of this
11 subsection, "emergency purposes" means any situation in which no other permanent
12 lodging is available unless a security deposit is paid. For the purposes of this subsection,
13 "broadband Internet access service" has the same meaning as in Title 10, section 1500-U,
14 subsection 1, paragraph A. For the purposes of this subsection, "wireless access point
15 technology" means technology that allows devices with wireless capacity to connect to a
16 network wirelessly.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill modifies the provisions of law governing municipal general assistance to
19 designate broadband Internet access service and wireless access point technology as basic
20 necessities.