

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1657

H. P. 1210

House of Representatives, March 19, 1971

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT to Authorize Food Stamp Program.

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

R. S., T. 22, § 3104, repealed and replaced. Section 3104 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 3104. Food stamp program

The department is authorized to administer a food stamp program in conformity with regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Our present food stamp program is being operated under an archaic statute that was passed probably in the mid-30's, and related to a program that had characteristics that were completely different from the present program. Passage of this Act would provide clear authority to operate current food stamp programs at whatever levels the Legislature and the Federal Department of Agriculture may determine by the funds made available from time to time. Our present program is limited to Androscoggin County, but there is growing support for geographic extension of the program.

Based on the last month's figures in Androscoggin County, \$266,198 worth of food was distributed through the food stamp program. The cost of this

to participants was \$112,450. This was either a saving to the population using food stamps or represented additional foods available to them of a value of \$153,748. Based on a yearly figure this means that Androscoggin County will distribute \$3,200,000 worth of food at a cost of \$1,350,000 to participants.

Applying this to a statewide projection, Androscoggin County has approximately 9% of the State population. This would mean that, on a statewide basis, the food stamp program would distribute \$35,556,500 worth of food at a cost of \$15,000,000 to participants. Thus, participants would save, or have available to them, additional food with a value of \$20,000,000.

One might point out that a stamp plan supplants the Direct Distribution program which now has local and state costs of some \$350,000 per year.

If the Legislature were to consider financing a statewide stamp plan it could appropriate as follows to the Department of Health and Welfare:

	1971-72	1972-73
FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (State Funds Only)		
Personal Service	(75) \$252,020	(75) \$264,622
All Other	95,000	78,200
Capital	50,000	1,000
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	\$397,020	\$343,822