

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1903

H. P. 1460 House of Representatives, January 24, 1972
Committee on County Government suggested.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-TWO

AN ACT to Authorize Counties to Adopt a Food Stamp Program.

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

Whereas, the welfare of disadvantaged citizens of the State of Maine is important to the well-being of the State of Maine; and

Whereas, various counties of the State of Maine are unable to take advantage of existing federal food stamp programs and to fund the programs; and

Whereas, the various counties of the State of Maine should be able to provide for the implementation of the federal food stamp programs as soon as possible in order to assist the welfare of the citizens of the State; and

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,

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 30, § 416, additional. Title 30 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 416, to read as follows:

§ 416. Food stamp program

The county commissioners of any county may provide for 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 and may expend county funds to operate and administer such a program.

Sec. 2. Funding. During the year 1972 counties may utilize funds from their contingent accounts, not exceeding 50% of the total available in such accounts, or \$20,000 whichever is less, to fund food stamp programs. Counties with funds appropriated for donated commodities may transfer those funds to a food stamp account and utilize those funds for purposes of operating a food stamp program. Counties may use, if available, a combination of both donated commodities moneys and contingent account moneys for such funding.

This legislation shall complement chapter 463 of the public laws of 1971 which enables the Department of Health and Welfare to administer a food stamp program if paid for by the Federal Government or by counties in the State of Maine. Action by any counties in adopting and funding a food stamp program in the year 1971 is validated.

For the year 1973 and thereafter counties desiring food stamp programs may fund the programs by including any necessary amounts in their budget.

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize counties, at their discretion, to adopt and fund federal food stamp programs and for the year 1972 to fund such programs even though provisions have not been made therefor in their current budgets. Additionally, validation of any action taken in 1971 is provided for.