

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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.