

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 654**

H. P. 501

House of Representatives, February 6, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kelleher of Bangor.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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**AN ACT to Appropriate Funds to Continue Nutritious Meals to  
Older People.**

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

Whereas, the said 90-day period will not terminate until after April 1, 1973; and

Whereas, certain nutrition programs for the elderly, now assisted by federal funds under the Older Americans Act, have grants that terminate on or before March 31, 1973; and

Whereas, the Federal Government has not yet authorized enabling legislation to continue these Older Americans Act grants beyond March 31, 1973; and

Whereas, the elderly citizens of Maine have a substantial need for healthy and nutritious meals; 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:

**Department of Health and Welfare; appropriation.** There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare from the General Fund the sum

of \$71,000 to continue older people's programs, particularly meals on wheels, now jeopardized by the Federal Government's failure to enact the 1972 amendments to the Older Americans Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

1972-73

HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF

Older Americans Act

All Other

\$71,000

Any portion of this appropriation unnecessary to continue older people's programs, until federal funds are available through the Older Americans Act, shall lapse to the General Fund and shall not be used for any other purpose. It is the intention of this Act that state funds appropriated to implement this Act shall be administered in accordance with the same policies, procedures and rules pertaining to the use of federal funds under Title III of the Older Americans Act, insofar as such policies, procedures and rules are not contrary to Maine law.

**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 bill is to continue for 6 months nutritious luncheons and meals-on-wheels now serving a daily average of 625 elderly people, 80,000 meals semi-annually in the Bangor, Lewiston and Rockland areas. Community agencies have operated these meals for several years with broad support from localities in the area and \$32,000 of nonfederal matching resources.

The 3 programs have been receiving 75% matching federal money via Older Americans Act grants.

The grants have already terminated or will terminate on March 31, 1973. As soon as the Federal Government has completed its work on the 1972 amendments to the Older Americans Act, it will be possible for these programs to seek continued federal financial help.

It is the intention of this Act to provide interim, emergency funding for up to, but not more than 6 months to maintain programs which operated previously with the help of federal funds. New services shall not be initiated as a result of this Act.