

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 679

H. P. 516

House of Representatives, February 7, 1973

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Morin of Old Orchard Beach.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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AN ACT Authorizing Department of Health and Welfare to Pay Medical Expenses for Needy Persons.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, § 3454, additional. Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 3454 to read as follows:

§ 3454. Medical expenses for needy persons

The Department of Health and Welfare is authorized to provide financial assistance to, or in behalf of, families or individuals whose costs for hospital in-patient or out-patient care, physicians' services, drugs, appliances and other related services cannot be met from their own or other sources, when said costs are of such magnitude as to constitute a financial catastrophe for the said families or individuals. The department shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to define eligibility, standards of need, the amounts and conditions of assistance and the methods of administration.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$1,900,000 to carry out the purpose of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

		1974-75
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(3)	\$ 23,000
All Other		1,875,000
Capital Expenditures		2,000
		<hr/>
		\$1,900,000

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Health and Welfare to provide financial assistance to families and individuals faced with catastrophic medical costs beyond their ability to pay.

Funds to implement this program are included in the Governor's Supplemental Services Budget.