

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 101

H. P. 104

House of Representatives, January 7, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Goodwin of Bath.

Cosponsors: Mr. Finemore of Bridgewater and Mr. Spencer of Standish.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Amending the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Act to Expand Eligibility to Recipients of Supplemental Security Income.

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA, § 6111-A, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 771, § 2, is repealed.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Finance and Administration the sum of \$3,804,815 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
Tax Relief for the Elderly		
Personal Services	\$ 8,840	\$ 9,450
All Other	1,892,800	1,893,400
Capital Expenditures	325	—
	<hr/> \$1,901,965	<hr/> \$1,902,850

STATEMENT OF FACT

There are approximately 9,877 elderly recipients of Supplemental Security Income in Maine who would qualify for Tax or Rent Refunds. The average rebate for qualified people in 1974 was \$207 with approximately 8% of those eligible not applying.

SSI recipients are among the lowest income elderly in the State, e.g., an individual on SSI with no other income receives only \$156 per month. Section 6119 of the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Act states, "It is the intent of this Legislature that any claim paid under this chapter shall supplement any benefits paid under aid to the aged, blind, and disabled or any program which succeeds or supplants it."

The Federal Government, when it took over the old AABD programs, ruled that property tax rebates no longer constitute income and will not affect the amount of benefit paid under SSI. In spite of the original intent of the law, which still stands, the 106th Legislature specifically excluded SSI recipients from eligibility. This legislation seeks to expand coverage to this low income group who are hardest hit by property taxes and rent.