

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1461

H. P. 1162

House of Representatives, March 25, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Drigotas of Auburn, referred to Committee on Taxation.
Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Silverman of Calais.

Cosponsor: Mr. Connolly of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Amend the Taxing Provisions under the Catastrophic Illness
and Medically Indigent Program.

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

36 MRSA § 4365, 2nd and 3rd sentences, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 768, § 2, are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Any increase in tax authorized by the public laws of 1973, chapter 768, section 2, to fund catastrophic medical expenses shall terminate when the catastrophic medical expense for the medically indigent program is terminated or suspended by legislative action or when any similar federal program becomes effective. In no event shall the funds that are raised by said tax increase, to the amount appropriated by the Legislature for said program, be made unavailable for the program except by the Legislature.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The 106th session of the Legislature enacted the catastrophic illness program to provide financial assistance to individuals and families faced with medical expenses beyond their ability to pay. The Legislature provided a 2¢ per pack increase in the cigarette tax to finance the legislation.

The taxing provisions of the catastrophic illness law allow for the tax to continue should the Legislature, the Governor or the Department of Health and Welfare see fit to discontinue the program. This legislation would provide for an immediate end to the 2¢ increased tax when the catastrophic illness program ends.