

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1705**

H. P. 1479

House of Representatives, April 10, 1975

Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Committee on Reference of Bills pursuant to Joint Rule 10. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Smith of Dover-Foxcroft.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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### AN ACT Relating to Municipal Support of the Poor.

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

22 MRSA § 4499, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 681, § 7, is amended by adding after the first sentence, following new sentences to read:

However, such 90% reimbursement shall be limited by the amount appropriated to the Department of Health and Welfare for general assistance for the fiscal year in which reimbursement is sought. Municipalities will continue to bill the department and the amounts incurred will be presented to the next regular or special session of the Legislature in the form of an appropriations Act for consideration by the Legislature. If the Legislature fails to appropriate funds for the deficit, the total amount appropriated for the fiscal year minus the amounts necessary to meet the obligations of bills incurred by unorganized townships will be distributed on a pro-rated basis to all municipalities. In those instances where additional payments are due, they will be made from the appropriation of the fiscal period following the fiscal period in which the obligations were incurred. In those instances where reimbursement is due the State, deductions will be made from amounts due municipalities during the fiscal period following the fiscal period that the obligations to the State were incurred.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that the Department of Health and Welfare is able to provide fiscal control over general assistance appropriations by limiting the amount of reimbursement paid to municipalities by the amount appropriated therefor. Without this amendment, the liability of the Department of Health and Welfare is unlimited and may easily exceed the amount appropriated by the Legislature for general assistance.