

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 859**

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H. P. 674

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Allow Families with An Unemployed Father to Participate in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program in Lieu of Receiving Unemployment Benefits.**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 3741, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1967, c. 459, § 1, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

The department shall also implement and operate a program of aid to the families of unemployed fathers with dependent children in accordance with Title 42, section 607, of the United States Code and any amendments and additions thereto.

Sec. 2. **Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1978 and June 30, 1979 the sum of \$1,780,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

|   | 1977-78        | 1978-79        |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF                   |                |                |
| Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program |                |                |
| Personal Services                               | (50) \$ 80,000 | (50) \$ 80,000 |
| All Other                                       | 720,000        | 900,000        |
| Total   | \$800,000      | \$980,000      |

STATEMENT OF FACT

The high unemployment rate throughout Maine has placed an impossible burden on many families. This bill will enable families in which there is an unemployed father of dependent children to choose between Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program or unemployment compensation as long as their unemployment continues. Seventy percent of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program benefits would be paid by the Federal Government. Many of the work availability requirements of the unemployment program apply to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program.