

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-558)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " B " to H.P. 1243, L. D. 1468, Bill,
"AN ACT to Provide Home Winterization for Older Citizens."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following: 'AN ACT to Provide Home Winterization for Low Income Elderly, Disabled and Other Low Income Families.'

Further amend the Bill by striking out everything after the title ~~and~~ and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine winterization program for winterizing or retrofitting residences of low income families has moneys available for winterization materials; and

Whereas, the program needs additional funds to hire labor to refit these dwellings; and

Whereas, there are 16,000 dwellings that are expected to be retrofitted under this program; and

Whereas, the most propitious time of year to undertake the retrofitting program is during the summer months prior to cold weather; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §. 1458 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1458

HOME WINTERIZATION PROGRAM

§5201. Provision of funds

The Legislature finds that many homes in which the low income elderly, disabled and other low income families live have not been constructed to sufficiently protect the occupants from winter weather. As a result, many of these families have experienced health problems and great discomfort. Many of the elderly, disabled and other low income people lack the means to finance retrofitting or winterization. The Legislature therefore, declares it to be in the public interest to provide funds for the implementation of the winterization program in Maine in order to provide greater comfort for low income people and to conserve energy within the State.

§5202. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

1. Handicapped. "Handicapped" means an individual who has a physical or mental disability which, for such individual, constitutes or results in a substantial handicap to employment or to the performance of an individual's usual activities.

2. Household. "Household" means a home occupied by at least one older citizen.

3. Low Income. "Low Income" means the income of a household that is 125% of the income guidelines as established by the Federal Community Services Administration, Sect. 625, Community Services Act of 1974.

4. Older citizen. "Older citizen" means a person of 60 years or older.

5. Winterization. "Winterization" means making home repairs and energy saving improvements to minimize heat loss and improve thermal efficiency. Components include repairs to stop heat loss through infiltration; installation of a balanced combination of energy saving home improvements, including insulation and storm windows and doors; and, where needed, the adjustment and repair of heating systems.

§ 5203. Administration of Winterization Program

1. Administering organization. The Executive Department, Division of Community Services, shall administer programs for winterization as defined in section 5202, subsection 5.

2. Priorities. The priorities of the winterization program shall be as follows:

- A. low income elderly households;
- B. low income disabled households;
- C. low income households; and
- D. all others.

§ 5204. Powers and duties

The Division of Community Services shall have the following powers and duties in order to implement the home winterization program:

1. Federal contracts. To enter into contracts with the Government of the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof, with the State or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or with any other municipality, district, private corporation, copartnership, association or individual providing for or relating to the winterization program;

2. Federal aid. To accept from any authorized agency of the Federal Government or the State grants for the home winterization program and to enter into agreements with such agency respecting any such grants, and to receive and accept aid and contributions from any source of either money, property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied for only the purposes for which such loans, grants and contributions may be made; and

3. Rules and regulations. To make rules and regulations, after hearing, to include the disbursement of funds to subcontracting agencies and organizations, the uses for which the moneys provided to subcontracting agencies and organizations may be expended, and reports by subcontracting agencies to the Division of Community Services concerning the results of the winterization program.

The Division of Community Services shall review and evaluate the home winterization program and report its findings to the Legislature.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Executive Department, the Division of Community Services the sum of \$124,000 to help implement the provisions of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

1977-78

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Division of Community Services

Personal Services (12) \$124,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.'

Statement of Fact

The intent of this amendment is to provide funds for labor for the winterization program in Maine. This amendment clarifies the powers of the Division of Community Services and the priorities of the program. In addition, 12 people will be hired to coordinate and participate in the winterization of nearly 16,000 low income homes in Maine.

Reported by the Committee on Energy.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
6/9/77

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