

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1468

H. P. 1243

House of Representatives, April 7, 1977

On motion of Mr. Talbot of Portland, referred to Committee on Energy.  
Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

Cosponsors: Mr. Wyman of Pittsfield; Mr. Trafton of Auburn; Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

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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 Provide Home Winterization for Older Citizens.

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

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

CHAPTER 1458

HOME WINTERIZATION FOR OLDER CITIZENS

§ 5201. Policy

It is declared to be the policy of the State to provide home winterization services to low income older citizens, insuring that they will be adequately warm; will be assisted in lowering their utility and home heating costs; will, in turn, have lower health care expenses and will contribute to the overall conservation of energy within the State.

§ 5202. Definitions

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

1. Household. "Household" means a home occupied by at least one older citizen.
2. 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.
3. Older citizen. "Older citizen" means a person of 60 years or older.

4. Winterization materials. "Winterization materials" means all types of insulation and materials utilized in the winterization of homes, including, but not limited to weatherstripping, polyethylene, storm windows and doors, stove and furnace parts, masonry repair materials and all other elements associated with securing a home for winter.

§ 5203. Operation

The Division of Community Services of the Executive Department shall be responsible for the operation, monitoring and evaluation of this chapter and shall carry out the policy of this chapter. It shall be solely responsible for the allocation of all appropriated funds on a fair and equitable basis to local community action agencies within the State's several counties as well as other appropriate agencies as may be found desirable to implement the intent of this chapter. The division shall draw up regulations regarding distribution of these moneys and make them available for public comment prior to adoption. In undertaking any distribution of funds, the division shall take into consideration the degree days of a particular area, the number of potential recipients and the area unemployment.

All appropriations under this chapter shall be used for the purchase of winterization materials only. In any fiscal year, the limit of winterization materials installed in any one home under this chapter shall not exceed \$300.

§ 5204. Program report

The Division of Community Services shall provide to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy an annual report on program progress, use of funds and overall effectiveness.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Executive Department, the Division of Community Services, the sum of \$75,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78
<b>EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</b>	
Division of Community Services	
All Other	\$75,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

In 1974, Maine had the first winterization program in the nation, funded for \$478,000 by the Office of Economic Opportunity. The program is now nationwide, but allocations have been commensurately reduced as the program covered more territory nationally. Therefore, Maine was only allocated \$245,000 for the coming year.

The 13 Maine Community Action Programs which run the federal winterization programs locally have "winterization" crews who estimate and schedule jobs and do the actual labor. These crews could be far better utilized if appropriate money for materials could be assured.

An allocation of \$75,000 would bring the program up to a more cost efficient and maximum functioning level.