

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1617

H. P. 1417

House of Representatives, April 14, 1977

Speaker laid before the House and referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kerry of Old Orchard Beach.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to General Assistance Payments For Home Heating Fuel.

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

22 MRSA § 4499-A is enacted to read:

§ 4499-A. State funding for home heating fuel

1. **Reimbursement.** The Department of Human Services shall reimburse municipalities for 100% of payments for home heating fuel made by municipalities to fuel vendors on behalf of general assistance recipients of the municipalities.

2. **Payments to fuel vendors.** The Department of Human Services is authorized to make payments for home heating fuel to fuel vendors for indigent persons eligible for municipal general assistance, but unable to obtain such assistance in time to avert severe hazard to life or health.

3. **Regulations.** The Department of Human Services shall promulgate written regulations for determining when such reimbursements and direct payments by the department shall be made.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would shift the burden of providing funds for heating costs for needy individuals and families from the municipalities to the State, either through reimbursement to municipalities or by providing direct payment to fuel vendors. This bill also directs the Department of Human Services to establish regulations for such payments.

Implementation of the bill would cost approximately \$800,000 per year.