

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1973

H. P. 1912

Office of the Clerk of the House

The Committee on Health and Institutional Services suggested. Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Ms. Goodwin of Bath.

Cosponsors: Mr. Curran of South Portland, Mr. Perkins of Blue Hill, Mr. Brenerman of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-EIGHT

AN ACT to Expand the Elderly Low Cost Drug Program.

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

Whereas, health has been determined to be the number one concern of Maine's older citizens; and

Whereas, many low income elderly do not qualify for medical assistance; and

Whereas, the only persons currently eligible for the low cost drug program are actual recipients of the Elderly Household Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, and thus many low income older people are excluded, such as residents of boarding homes and subsidized housing; 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Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 254, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 619, § 1 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Individuals eligible for participation. All persons who are legal residents of the State and who meet the age and income criteria for the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Program, regardless of whether they are otherwise ineligible for such refunds, shall be eligible to participate in the Elderly Low Cost Drug Program.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act:

1978-79

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Elderly Low Cost Drug Program

All Other

\$2,000,000

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to expand eligibility for the low cost drug program to all persons who meet the age and income guidelines of the Elderly Householders Property Tax and Rent Refund Program. Currently, many low income older people are being denied low cost drugs because their living arrangements or low tax bills do not qualify them to receive a tax or rent refund although they would be otherwise eligible based on age and income.