

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1619

S. P. 561

In Senate, May 16, 1979

Reported by Senator Martin of Aroostook from the Committee on State Government and printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Conform State Statutes to the Federal Food Stamp Program.

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

22 MRSA § 3104, sub-§§ 4 to 9 are enacted to read:

4. **Mail issuance of coupons.** The department shall institute a system of mail issuance of food stamp allotments through a direct coupon mailing system as authorized by and in conformity with regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

In those areas of the State where the department can document evidence of significant diminution of client demand or of loss significant numbers of coupons, the department may, after notice and hearing, establish an alternative system of food stamp issuance.

5. **Outreach.** It is the intent of the Legislature that the department fully carry out all outreach activities established by federal regulation to encourage the participation of all eligible households.

In carrying out its outreach activities, the department shall insure that all applicants and recipients are informed of their right to have the requirement for a face-to-face interview waived as provided by federal regulations.

6. **Bilingual requirements.** The department shall print and distribute brochures or pamphlets concerning the food stamp program in other languages as it deems necessary. The department shall prepare public service announcements

in French for distribution to appropriate newspapers and radio and television stations.

7. **Verification of information.** The department shall establish and implement uniform verification procedures that will be applied to all applicants and recipients.

8. **Certification periods.** Households shall be certified for a 6-month period unless there is a likelihood of change in income or household status. Households consisting of elderly or disabled persons with stable incomes shall be certified for 12 months.

9. **Information on notice to recipients.** All notices of denial, reduction of benefits, termination of benefits, fraud claims, nonfraud claims or other actions shall contain information on the appeal procedure, and the availability of free legal representation in the geographic area and shall include, at a minimum, the address and telephone number for these services.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purposes of this new draft are to require:

1. Mail issuance of food stamp coupons, but to permit other methods of distribution in response to recipients' requests of problems of loss of coupons;
2. Federally mandated outreach and waiver of face-to-face interviews;
3. Preparation of bilingual information on the program;
4. Uniform verification procedures;
5. Twelve-month certification for elderly and disabled persons with stable income, and 6-month certification for others unless there is likelihood of change in income or household status; and
6. That certain notices to recipients contain information on the appeals procedure available to clients and on the availability of free services.