

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 739

S. P. 257

In Senate, February 10, 1981

On Motion of Senator Collins of Knox, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Conley of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Clarify Food Stamp Allotment Calculations in Cases of Immediate Economic Loss.

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

22 MRSA § 3104, sub-§ 10 is enacted to read:

10. **Supplemental monthly issuance. Whenever a household receiving food stamps informs the department of a change in circumstances which will result in an increase in its food stamp allotment, the department shall issue a supplemental food stamp allotment to that household for the month in which the change is reported. The supplemental allotment shall represent the difference between the amount for which the household was originally certified in that month and the amount for which it is actually eligible as a result of its reported change in circumstances.**

The department shall mail such supplemental allotment within 5 working days of the date that the change in circumstances was reported.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The food stamp program issues food stamps based on a variety of factors, including monthly income and family size. Presently, when a household's circumstances change, as in the case of mass layoffs, plant closings or the

addition of a family member, the household is doubly penalized. First, it must bear the economic burden of the change itself and secondly it must survive on a food stamp allotment which does not accurately reflect the family's circumstances or need.

While this bill cannot address the problems of economic instability in the State, it can assure families that they will receive a monthly food stamp allotment which is based on their actual economic circumstances by requiring a supplemental issuance to be mailed in the month in which the change occurs.

The cost of this supplemental issuance will be paid entirely by the Federal Government.