MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	FIRST REGULAR SE				
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE					
Legislative Document		No. 60			
H.P. 509	House of R	epresentatives, February 8, 1983			
		oruary 8, 1983. Referred to the printed pursuant to Joint Rule			
		EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk			
	entative Rolde of York. ator Bustin of Kennebec.				
	STATE OF MAIN	IE			
NIN	IN THE YEAR OF OU ETEEN HUNDRED AND E				
	to Provide Home En nefits to Eligible Subsidized Hous	Tenants in			
Be it enacted follows:	by the People of t	the State of Maine as			
22 MRSA c	. 1459 is enacted t	co read:			
	CHAPTER 1459	1			
HOI	ME ENERGY ASSISTANC	E PROGRAM			
§5254. Policy	ď				
United States 1981, Title 2 1981." The St	Omnibus Budget Re KXVI, the "Home Enerate is authorized	rgy Assistance Act of			

1 §5255. Administering organization

The Division of Community Services, Executive
Department, shall administer the Home Energy Assistance Program.

§5256. Regulations

The Division of Community Services shall establish rules for the Home Energy Assistance Program, consistent with the United States Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, Title XXVI, and any amendments or additions thereto.

§5257. Subsidized housing

Aid shall not be denied under this chapter to otherwise eligible applicants solely by reason of their residence in a publically subsidized housing unit.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Home Energy Assistance Program provides benefits to assist low-income families in meeting their heating needs. Money for this program comes to the State as a block grant and the State is given the power to establish most of the regulations under which it operates.

Maine has made a regulation which categorically excludes subsidized housing tenants from eligibility for Home Energy Assistance Programs' benefits.

The reasoning behind this exclusion is that the several federal housing programs contain a complicated array of independent provisions for considering energy costs in a tenant's rent. To differing degrees in different programs, subsidized housing tenants receive some assistance with the high cost of energy. The present state response is to entirely exclude this class of tenants from eligibility.

In many cases, the utility allocations provided tenants are inadequate. In addition, subsidized housing tenants are often among the poorest of our

citizens	and, then	efore,	most in	need of	assist	tance,
even whe	n the value	e of a t	utility	allowance	from	their
housing	authority :	s cons	idered.			

This bill would codify the authority for state operation of the Home Energy Assistance Program and remove the exclusion from eligibility for subsidized housing tenants.

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