

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2021

6
7 H.P. 1536

House of Representatives, January 31, 1984

8 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint
9 Rule 26.

10 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs is
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Mitchell of Vassalboro.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Rolde of York, Representative Lisnik of
Presque Isle and Senator Brown of Washington.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
16

17 AN ACT to Amend the Maine Weatherization
18 Program.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5202, sub-§4-A is enacted to
23 read:

24 4-A. Minor repairs. "Minor repairs," as that
25 term is used in subsection 6, includes repairs which
26 do not exceed \$1,500 per unit and which are necessary
27 in order to:

28 A. Protect the installed weatherization materi-
29 als;

30 B. Enhance the energy efficiency of the unit; or

31 C. Correct other health and safety deficiencies
32 of the unit.

1 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5204, sub-§3, as amended by PL
2 1983, c. 482, §8, is further amended to read:

3 3. Rules. To make rules and regulations, after
4 hearing, to include the disbursement of funds to
5 subcontracting agencies and organizations, the uses
6 for which the moneys provided to subcontracting agen-
7 cies and organizations may be expended, and reports
8 by subcontracting agencies to the Division of Commu-
9 nity Services concerning the results of the
10 weatherization and fuel assistance programs. Rules
11 promulgated pursuant to this subsection shall be sub-
12 ject to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title
13 5, chapter 375, subchapter IV. In addition, the divi-
14 sion shall provide the Community Services Advisory
15 Board with a copy of any proposed rule at least 45
16 days prior to the final promulgation of the rule,
17 emergency rules excepted.

18 Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are
19 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
20 purposes of this Act.

21 1984-85

22 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

23 Division of Community Services

24 All Other \$1,000,000

25 Expanded home weatherization
26 funds are administered by the
27 division and allocated to the 12
28 community action agencies.

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 This bill proposes a modest expansion of the
31 types of eligible home repairs under the
32 weatherization program operated by the Division of
33 Community Services and community action agencies and
34 appropriates funds for that expansion.

35 Community action agencies which conduct and per-
36 form weatherization services for elderly, handicapped

1 and other low income people frequently find that mi-
2 nor housing repairs are necessary in order to make
3 the housing unit habitable and even to make the ener-
4 gy conservation measures of long-lasting value. Ex-
5 amples are roof repair or replacement of defective
6 and dangerous stairs.

7 The current state appropriation for housing re-
8 pair and weatherization is inadequate to meet the
9 documented need. In addition, current state and fed-
10 eral regulations prohibit all but a very few housing
11 repairs during the weatherization process.

12 There is no other available source of funds for
13 single-family dwellings for this type of housing re-
14 pair. The Farmer's Home Administration grant and loan
15 program for this purpose has almost disappeared. Oth-
16 er housing rehabilitation programs, such as those op-
17 erated by the housing authority, are geared to rental
18 units only. The low income people eligible for the
19 weatherization program do not qualify for traditional
20 bank financing in most cases. The proposed program
21 provides a greatly needed and efficient means of im-
22 proving Maine's housing stock by regional agencies
23 that have developed expertise in housing repair due
24 to their work in the weatherization program and their
25 new role in Central Maine Power Company's Energy Con-
26 servation Loan Program recently authorized by the
27 Public Utilities Commission.

28 The proposed appropriation of \$1,000,000 is ex-
29 pected to serve 2,400 homes at an average cost of
30 \$400 a unit.

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