

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
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5 Legislative Document

No. 319
6

7 S.P. 104

In Senate, January 31, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
9 suggested and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Carpenter of Aroostook.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Scarpino of St. George and
Representative O'Gara of Westbrook.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Amend the Home Weatherization
18 Program.
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20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5202, sub-§5-A is enacted to
23 read:

24 5-A. Home repairs. "Home repairs" includes re-
25 pairs which do not exceed \$1,600 per unit and which
26 are necessary in order to:

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

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

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

32 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5204, sub-§3, as amended by PL
33 1983, c. 482, §8, is further amended to read:

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

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

| | <u>1985-86</u> | <u>1986-87</u> |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 20 | <u>EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</u> | |
| 21 | Division of Community | |
| 22 | Services | |
| 23 | All Other | \$1,000,000 \$1,000,000 |
| 24 | Expanded home weather- | |
| 25 | ization funds are | |
| 26 | administered by the | |
| 27 | division and allocated | |
| 28 | to the 12 community | |
| 29 | action agencies. | |

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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

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Community action agencies which conduct and perform weatherization services for elderly, handicapped and other low-income people frequently find that minor housing repairs are necessary in order to make the housing unit habitable and even to make the energy conservation measures of long-lasting value. Examples are roof repair or replacement of defective and dangerous stairs.

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The current state appropriation for housing repair and weatherization is inadequate to meet the documented need. There is a waiting list of over 25,000 homes.

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As low-income people eligible for the weatherization program do not qualify for traditional bank financing, the proposed program provides a greatly-needed and efficient means of improving Maine's housing stock by regional agencies that have developed expertise in housing repair.

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The proposed appropriation of \$1,000,000 is expected to serve 2,400 homes per year at an average cost of \$400 a unit.

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