

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 381

7 H.P. 292

House of Representatives, January 31, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
9 ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Conners of Franklin.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Randall of East Machias, Representative
Moholland of Princeton and Senator Brown of Washington.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Require the State to Administer and
18 Finance a General Assistance Program
19 for Migrant Workers.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§5, as enacted by PL
24 1983, c. 577, §1, is amended to read:

25 5. General assistance program. "General assist-
26 ance program" means a service administered by a mu-
27 nicipality, or the State pursuant to section 4312,
28 for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to
29 provide the basic necessities essential to maintain
30 themselves or their families. A general assistance
31 program provides a specific amount and type of aid
32 for defined needs during a limited period of time and
33 is not intended to be a continuing "grant-in-aid" or
34 "categorical" welfare program. This definition shall
35 not in any way lessen the responsibility of each mu-
36 nicipality or the State to provide general assistance

1 to a person each time that the person has need and is
2 found to be otherwise eligible to receive general as-
3 sistance.

4 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§8-A is enacted to
5 read:

6 8-A. Migrant agricultural worker. "Migrant ag-
7 ricultural worker" means an individual who is em-
8 ployed in agricultural employment of a seasonal or
9 other temporary nature, and who must be absent over-
10 night from his permanent place of residence in order
11 to perform the work. The term "migrant agricultural
12 worker" does not include any immediate family member
13 of an agricultural employer or any person who, for
14 any money or other valuable consideration paid or
15 promised to be paid, performs any farm labor con-
16 tracting activity.

17 Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4312, as enacted by PL 1983, c.
18 577, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its
19 place:

20 §4312. Unincorporated places; migrant workers

21 The State shall administer and fund a general as-
22 sistance program which shall be available to all eli-
23 gible persons who are residents of unincorporated or
24 unorganized townships or who are migrant agricultural
25 workers. The Department of Human Services may ap-
26 point agents to administer the general assistance
27 program.

28 Sec. 4. Appropriation. The following funds are
29 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
30 purposes of this Act.

31 1985-86

32 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

33 Special Services
34 General Assistance

35 All Other \$5,000

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to require the State
3 to assume financial and administrative responsibility
4 for general assistance granted to migrant agricultur-
5 al workers by municipalities every year. The very
6 small municipalities, particularly in Washington
7 County, are supporting populations of migrant agri-
8 cultural workers greater than their own population.
9 The demand for that assistance has escalated to the
10 point where these small municipalities can no longer
11 be expected to bear such a burden.

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