

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 677

7 H.P. 474

House of Representatives, February 26, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Connolly of Portland.

11 Cosponsored by President Pray of Penobscot and Representative Rolde
of York.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Increase Emergency Assistance to
18 Needy Families with Children.
19

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

22 22 MRSA §3761, as amended by PL 1983, c. 824, Pt.
23 Z-1, is further amended to read:

24 §3761. Emergency assistance

25 The department, at the discretion of the commis-
26 sioner, may establish and operate a program of emer-
27 gency assistance to needy families with children
28 within the United States Social Security Act, Title
29 IV-A, Section 406(e), and any amendments and addi-
30 tions thereto. The department shall not expend more
31 than ~~\$750,000~~ \$1,000,000 of state general assistance
32 funds for the purposes of covering the cost of the
33 program.

1 This program shall provide benefits to needy fam-
2 ilies with children in emergency situations in which
3 the family is deprived of the basic necessities es-
4 sential to their support, including, but not limited
5 to, utility terminations, lack of adequate shelter,
6 fire and other natural disasters. The program shall
7 not be used to supplant local responsibility for op-
8 erating or funding a general assistance program.

9 The department may establish eligibility guide-
10 lines and limits on services covered under this pro-
11 gram and shall report to the ~~First~~ Second Regular
12 Session of the 112th Legislature as to the progress
13 made in the emergency assistance program.

14 STATEMENT OF FACT

15 Since 1983, the State has participated in a pro-
16 gram available under the United States Social Securi-
17 ty Act which provides emergency assistance to needy
18 families with children. This program is financed
19 with 50% federal dollars and must be matched equally
20 with state dollars.

21 The Family Crisis Assistance Program, as it is
22 now called, provides assistance to needy families ex-
23 perienceing disasters such as fires and floods and
24 other emergencies such as evictions, utility termina-
25 tions or failure of a heating source. It also offers
26 assistance to handicapped individuals by providing
27 special equipment necessary to perform daily living
28 functions not available through other sources.

29 The assistance provided by this program partially
30 relieves recipients' need to apply for municipal gen-
31 eral assistance which is funded with local property
32 tax revenue and supplemented with state money only
33 after a certain level of expenditure had been
34 reached. This program funded with state dollars and
35 federal dollars relieves some of the burden on local
36 property tax payers.

37 This bill increases the amount of state general
38 assistance funds that the department may spend on
39 this program from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. This ex-

1 penditure generates another \$1,000,000 in federal
2 revenue for the program.

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