

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 711

6
7 H.P. 506 House of Representatives, February 26, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Connolly of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator Berube of Androscoggin.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Provide a Clothing and Energy
18 Assistance Allowance for Needy
19 Children.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are
24 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
25 purposes of this Act.

26 1985-86

27 HUMAN SERVICES,
28 DEPARTMENT OF

29 Aid to Families with
30 Dependent Children
31 All Other

\$577,350

32 Provides funds for a
33 one-month, nonrecur-

1 ring clothing allow-
2 ance in the amount of
3 \$60 for each child
4 eligible for assist-
5 ance under this pro-
6 gram on September 1,
7 1985. The standard
8 of need shall be in-
9 creased by an amount
10 necessary to provide
11 the allowance in Sep-
12 tember 1985.

13 Sec. 2. Allocation. The following funds are al-
14 located from the Federal Expenditure Fund to carry
15 out the purposes of this Act.

16 1985-86

17 HUMAN SERVICES,
18 DEPARTMENT OF

19 Aid to Families with
20 Dependent Children
21 All Other \$1,347,150

22 Provides funds for
23 one-month, nonrecur-
24 ring clothing allow-
25 ance in the amount of
26 \$60 for each child
27 eligible for assist-
28 ance under this pro-
29 gram on September 1,
30 1985. The standard
31 of need shall be in-
32 creased by an amount
33 necessary to provide
34 the allowance in Sep-
35 tember 1985.

36 Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are
37 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
38 purposes of this Act.

39 1985-86 1986-87

1	<u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>		
2	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
3	Aid to Families with		
4	Dependent Children		
5	All Other	\$1,627,740	\$1,627,740
6	Medical care		
7	Services		
8	All Other	<u>251,856</u>	<u>251,856</u>
9	DEPARTMENT OF		
10	HUMAN SERVICES		
11	TOTAL	\$1,879,596	\$1,879,596

12 Provides funds for
13 energy assistance to
14 Aid to Families with
15 Dependent Children
16 families because it
17 has been clearly dem-
18 onstrated that over
19 the past several
20 years, energy costs
21 have risen more
22 quickly than other
23 costs. These extra-
24 ordinary increases
25 have not been ade-
26 quately addressed by
27 past increases in the
28 standard of need.
29 These funds shall be
30 used to pay such ad-
31 ditional amounts for
32 the home heating
33 needs of Aid to Fami-
34 lies with Dependent
35 Children recipients,
36 calculated on a sea-
37 sonal basis, and
38 shall be paid in the
39 most administratively
40 efficient manner in
41 accord with all ap-
42 plicable federal and
43 state laws and regu-
44 lations.

1 Sec. 4. Allocation. The following funds are al-
 2 located from the Federal Expenditure Fund to carry
 3 out the purposes of this Act.

	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
4		
5	<u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>	
6	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
7	Aid to Families with	
8	Dependent Children	
9	All Other	\$3,798,060
		\$3,798,060
10	Medical Care	
11	Services	
12	All Other	<u>587,667</u>
		<u>587,667</u>
13	DEPARTMENT OF	
14	HUMAN SERVICES	
15	TOTAL	\$4,385,727
		\$4,385,727

16 Provides funds for
 17 energy assistance to
 18 Aid to Families with
 19 Dependent Children
 20 because it has been
 21 clearly demonstrated
 22 that over the past
 23 several years energy
 24 costs have risen more
 25 quickly than other
 26 costs. These extra-
 27 ordinary increases
 28 have not been ade-
 29 quately addressed by
 30 past increases in the
 31 standard of need.
 32 These funds shall be
 33 used to pay such ad-
 34 ditional amounts for
 35 the home heating
 36 needs of Aid to Fami-
 37 lies with Dependent
 38 Children recipients,
 39 calculated on a sea-
 40 sonal basis, and

1 shall be paid in the
2 most administratively
3 efficient manner in
4 accord with all ap-
5 plicable federal and
6 state laws and regu-
7 lations.

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

9 This bill provides funds for both a clothing and
10 energy allowance for Aid to Families with Dependent
11 Children families. First, it requires a single, non-
12 recurring lump sum payment in the amount of \$60 per
13 child to be made in September 1985 for the purpose of
14 allowing Aid to Families with Dependent Children fam-
15 ilies to purchase school and winter clothing for
16 their children.

17 Secondly, it requires the creation of an energy
18 standard within the standard of need and provides
19 funds for energy assistance payments, calculated on a
20 seasonal basis, to all Aid to Families with Dependent
21 Children families which directly or indirectly incur
22 home energy costs. Recent studies have clearly dem-
23 onstrated the need for such additional assistance.
24 The present Aid to Families with Dependent Children
25 Standard of Need was developed in 1970 based on the
26 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
27 Statistics' lower family budget for 1969. The de-
28 partment estimates that the standard is presently
29 equivalent to a 1975 level of need. Since the stan-
30 dard was adopted in 1970, the consumer price index
31 for all costs has risen by 108% but has risen by 509%
32 for energy related costs. During that same period,
33 the standard of need has risen by only 68%. The Na-
34 tional Consumer Law Center in its publication "Cold
35 -- Not by Choice" has determined that Maine's low in-
36 come families must annually expend \$1,777 for energy
37 costs in a normal year. They determine the average
38 monthly expenditure during the winter to be \$231. The
39 present housing component of the Aid to Families with
40 Dependent Children Standard of Need, which includes
41 rent or mortgage, electricity and energy costs, for a
42 family of 4 is only \$214.

1 The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in
2 1984-1985 provides a maximum benefit of \$400 total or
3 only \$66 per month in the 6-month heating season.
4 The recently submitted federal budget for fiscal year
5 1986 proposes even less revenue to Maine under the
6 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, making the
7 energy assistance provided in this bill even more
8 critical.

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