

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2288

H.P. 1670 House of Representatives, February 17, 1988

Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative CASHMAN of Old Town.

Cosponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senators
TWITCHELL of Oxford and DOW of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

1 **AN ACT to Allocate Stripper Well Oil Refund**
2 **Money to the Home Energy Assistance**
3 **Program.**
4

5 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the
6 Legislature do not become effective until 90 days
7 after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

8 Whereas, the United States Congress, to achieve
9 deficit reduction and in recognition of the

1 availability to states of oil refund money, has cut
2 the State's allocation for the Home Energy Assistance
3 Program by almost \$4,000,000; and

4 Whereas, the delay in the Federal Government
5 action has caused no benefits to be paid yet and
6 appointments for applications are now scheduled into
7 March; and

8 Whereas, the average annual benefit in the Home
9 Energy Assistance Program, due to federal cuts and
10 increased numbers of low-income applicants, has
11 decreased from \$420 in 1983 to \$311 in 1987; and

12 Whereas, the decrease in delay in Home Energy
13 Assistance Program funds has put added demands on
14 sources of emergency funds, including municipal
15 general assistance; and

16 Whereas, several uses of stripper well overcharge
17 funds proposed last year have been rejected by the
18 United States Department of Energy; and

19 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these
20 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the
21 Constitution of Maine and require the following
22 legislation as immediately necessary for the
23 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;
24 now, therefore,

25 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
26 follows:

27 Allocation. The following funds are allocated
28 from the Stripper Well Fund for the fiscal year ending
29 June 30, 1988, to carry out the purposes of this Act.

30 1987-88

31 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

32 Division of Community Services

33 Home Energy Assistance Program

1 All Other \$4,300,000

2 Provides funds to
3 offset decreases in
4 federal funding for
5 this program.

6 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency
7 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when
8 approved.

9 STATEMENT OF FACT

10 This bill allocates the money now in the Stripper
11 Well Fund, due to the United States Department of
12 Energy's rejection of the State's previous proposals
13 concerning fuel assistance, to the Home Energy
14 Assistance Program to make up federal budget cuts over
15 the last several years.

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