

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 837

H.P. 586

House of Representatives, February 26, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative MANNING of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative CARROLL of Gray, Representative CATHCART of Orono and Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**Resolve, to Create a Demonstration Program to Increase Utilization of
the Food Stamp Program by the Elderly.**

Demonstration program. Resolved: That the Department of
2 Human Services shall seek a waiver from the United States
Department of Agriculture to create a demonstration program to
4 provide cash benefits directly to eligible elderly persons in
lieu of food coupons. Contingent on such a waiver, the
6 Department of Human Services shall work with elderly consumers or
their representatives in the development of this program and
8 report back to the Second Regular Session of the 115th
Legislature by March 15, 1992 on the benefits and problems
10 created by the demonstration program.

The report must include an assessment of whether increased
12 utilization occurred as a result of the demonstration program,
14 the method of benefit distribution, including efficiency and
satisfaction and problems of the program identified such as
16 misuse or fraud.

18 STATEMENT OF FACT

20 The Food Stamp Program is a federally funded,
22 state-administered, need-based nutrition program that provides
coupons for the purchase of food in accordance with household
24 income and asset limitations. Statistics show that older people
under-utilize to a greater extent the Food Stamp Program than do
26 other age groups.

28 The purpose of this bill is to create a demonstration
program, modeled after one in New York, that would provide the
30 food stamp benefit in cash, rather than in coupons. A report
would be provided to the Legislature by March 15, 1992 outlining
32 the benefit of this method of distribution, including but not
limited to increased utilization, satisfaction with the method of
34 distribution, the efficiency of method and any problems
identified such as misuse or fraud.