

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. 01 S.

L.D. 857

(Filing No. S-616 )

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 319, L.D. 857, Bill, "An Act to Ensure Adequate Resources for Energy Assistance Programs for Low-income Households"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4992-A is enacted to read:

§4992-A. Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund

1. Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund. If funds are appropriated pursuant to this section, the authority shall use the funds to establish and capitalize the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund. The authority shall keep the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," separate from all other funds managed by the authority and use the fund only under the conditions set forth in this section. The authority shall use the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund to ensure that fuel assistance benefits for the State's eligible elderly and low-income residents are available prior to the beginning of the heating season.

2. Timely distribution of benefits. The authority shall make available to local program operators and municipal administrators of the fuel assistance program, by October 1st of each year, funds sufficient to cover anticipated fuel assistance payments and program administrative costs for at least the months of October, November and December.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

A. of S.

2 3. Conditional use of the fund. The authority's use of the  
3 fund is subject to the following conditions and limitations.

4 A. If the authority reasonably anticipates that federal  
5 fuel assistance block grant funds are not available for  
6 distribution to the local program operators and municipal  
7 administrators by October 1st of each year, the authority  
8 shall withdraw and distribute sufficient money from the fund  
9 as is necessary for the purposes set forth in this section.  
10 The authority may withdraw funds prior to October 1st,  
11 provided that those funds are used only for costs incurred  
12 on or after October 1st.

13 Money may not be withdrawn from the fund if sufficient block  
14 grant funds are available by October 1st to pay reasonably  
15 anticipated fuel assistance program and administrative costs  
16 for the months of October, November and December.

17 B. Money withdrawn from the fund must be sufficient to  
18 cover anticipated fuel assistance payments and fuel  
19 assistance program administrative costs for all local  
20 program operators and municipal administrators for the  
21 months of October, November and December.

22 C. The fund may not be used if the authority reasonably  
23 anticipates that no federal fuel assistance money will be  
24 received.

25 4. Recapitalization. If money is withdrawn from the fund  
26 for the purposes of this section, the authority shall ensure that  
27 the fund is fully recapitalized before the end of the fiscal year  
28 in which the funds were appropriated.

30 **FISCAL NOTE**

31 This bill creates the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund within  
32 the Maine State Housing Authority. General Fund appropriations  
33 would be required to capitalize the fund.  
34

35 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

36 This amendment replaces the original bill. The amendment  
37 establishes the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund. If money is  
38 appropriated to the fund, it may be used only to advance fuel  
39 assistance payments that will be returned to the fund when  
40 federal funds are received. The amendment also removes the  
41 emergency preamble and clause and adds a fiscal note.

42 Reported by Senator Conley for the Committee on Human Resources.  
43 Reproduced and Distributed Pursuant to Senate Rule 12.  
44 (3/11/92) 9Filing No. S-616)