

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1420

H.P. 977

House of Representatives, April 4, 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 MITCHELL of Vassalboro.

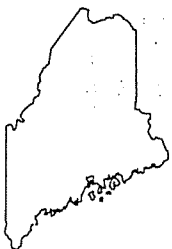
Cosponsored by Representative STROUT of Corinth, Representative CHONKO of Topsham and Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Establish a Special Housing Allowance for the Aid to Families
with Dependent Children Program.**

(EMERGENCY)



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

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6 Whereas, shelter costs have become very high and are
continuing to rise in all parts of the State; and

8 Whereas, many families receiving Aid to Families with
Dependent Children benefits do not have sufficient income to meet
these costs; and

12 Whereas, this creates severe hardship and the threat of
homelessness for these families as well as significant cost to
municipalities that must meet these needs through their general
assistance programs; and

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

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

24 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3760-D is enacted to read:**

26 **§3760-D. Special needs payment for Aid to Families with Dependent**
28 **Children recipients having excessive shelter costs**

30 The department shall provide a special needs payment to any
32 family receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits
34 equal to 15% of the family's benefit payment in each month in
 which the family's total shelter cost equals or exceeds 50% of
 its income.

36 For purposes of this section, "shelter costs" means all
38 items included in the cost of housing in the Aid to Families with
40 Dependent Children basic cost chart contained in the Maine Public
42 Assistance Payments Manual, Chapter II, Section D on January 1,
 1991. The term "income" includes all that is countable as income
 under laws and rules of the Aid to Families with Dependent
 Children program.

44 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6203-A is enacted to read:**

46 **§6203-A. Payment of claim to recipients of the Aid to Families**
48 **with Dependent Children program**

50 The amount of the claim of any claimant receiving Aid to
 Families with Dependent Children benefits, after certification by
 the State Tax Assessor, must be sent to the Department of Human

2 Services for payment as an Aid to Families with Dependent
3 Children special need benefit.

4 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
5 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

6 1991-92 1992-93

8 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

10 **Bureau of Income Maintenance**

12 **Aid to Families with Dependent**
14 **Children**

16 All Other \$3,988,367 \$3,834,613

18 Provides funds for special
19 needs payments to Aid to
20 Families with Dependent
21 Children families having
22 excessive shelter costs.

24 **Sec. 4. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
25 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

26 1991-92 1992-93

28 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

30 **Bureau of Income Maintenance**

32 **General Assistance Reim-**
34 **bursement to Cities and**
35 **Towns**

36 All Other (\$3,115,490) (\$3,005,037)

38 Deappropriates funds no
39 longer needed in this account
40 because of the additional
41 shelter payments made to
42 families receiving Aid to
43 Families with Dependent
44 Children benefits under this
45 Act.

48 **Sec. 5. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
49 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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1991-92 1992-93

FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Taxation

Maine Residents Property Tax Program

All Other (\$872,877) (\$829,576)

Deappropriates funds no longer needed as a result of new federal funds received to pay a share of the Maine Residents Property Tax Program benefits for eligible Aid to Families with Dependent Children recipients.

Sec. 6. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from Federal Expenditures to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1991-92 1992-93

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Income Maintenance

Aid to Families with Dependent Children

All Other \$6,695,713 \$6,363,826

Allocates funds for special needs payments to Aid to Families with Dependent Children families having excessive shelter costs.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill shifts the burden for a significant amount of the shelter cost for Aid to Families with Dependent Children families from municipalities and the State to the Federal Government by using the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program with its federal matching funds to meet a greater proportion of those families' shelter needs.

2 This bill also maintains the eligibility of Aid to Families
with Dependent Children families for the Maine Residents Property
Tax Program but provides that payment of that benefit to those
4 families be made through the Aid to Families with Dependent
Children program to acquire the benefit of federal matching funds.