

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

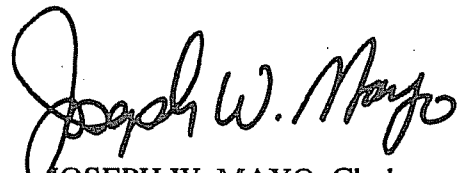
No. 914

H.P. 676

House of Representatives, March 15, 1993

**An Act to Assist Low-income Families with Children to Meet Their
Winter Energy Costs.**

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GEAN of Alfred.
Cosponsored by Representatives: JOHNSON of South Portland, TREAT of Gardiner.

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

4 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3760-G is enacted to read:

6 **§3760-G. Seasonal energy supplement**

8 In recognition of the inability of low-income families with
10 children to meet the increased burden of purchasing energy, the
12 department shall provide all aid to families with dependent
14 children assistance units with a supplemental energy payment to
16 offset in whole or in part the costs associated with seasonal
18 variations in energy costs, except, however, this supplement is
20 not available to persons living in room and board facilities,
22 maternity homes, boarding homes or temporary shelters. This
24 supplemental payment must be made to eligible families for the
26 seasonal period consisting of the months of November to April of
each year. For reasons of administrative simplicity, and in
recognition that most aid to families with dependent children
families utilize annual budget plans or other methods of extended
payment, this payment must be provided in equal monthly amounts
throughout the seasonal period. For the seasonal period
beginning in November 1993, the energy supplement for each
eligible assistance unit is \$20 per month. For subsequent years
the monthly supplement must be adjusted by the estimated
percentage increase, if any, for the average cost of purchasing
energy in the next seasonal period.

28 **Sec. 2. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from
30 Stripper Well Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1993-94	1994-95
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Income Maintenance		
Aid to Families with Dependent Children		
All Other	\$955,046	\$955,046
Provides for the allocation of funds from the Stripper Well Fund for the state share of seasonal energy supplement payments to aid to families with dependent children recipients for energy-related expenses.		
Administration - Income		

Maintenance

2			
4	All Other	20,000	20,000
6	Provides for the allocation		
8	of funds from the Stripper		
10	Well Fund for the state share		
12	of computer programming and		
14	contractual services costs		
16	related to the seasonal		
	energy supplement for aid to		
	families with dependent		
	children recipients.		
	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES		
	TOTAL	<u>\$975,046</u>	<u>\$975,046</u>

Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from the Federal Expenditure Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

20			
22		1993-94	1994-95
24	HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		

Aid to Families with Dependent Children

26			
28	All Other	\$1,552,954	\$1,552,954
30	Provides for the allocation		
32	of funds from the Federal		
34	Expenditure Fund for seasonal		
36	energy supplement payments to		
	aid to families with		
	dependent children recipients		
	for energy-related expenses.		

Administration - Income Maintenance

40			
42	All Other	20,000	20,000
44	Provides for the allocation		
46	of funds from the Federal		
48	Expenditure Fund for computer		
50	programming and contractual		
	services related to the		
	seasonal energy supplement		
	for aid to families with		
	dependent children recipients.		

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TOTAL

\$1,572,954

\$1,572,954

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides a \$20 supplement during the winter months to aid to families with dependent children families who directly or indirectly incur a heating cost in order to help those families with children stay warm during our coldest months.

This bill uses funds from the Stripper Well Fund as the state share of the cost of this supplement, allowing the State to draw down an additional 1 1/2 times that amount in federal revenue.

This bill will also save money in the general assistance program where families would otherwise have to turn for help with their winter energy costs.