

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

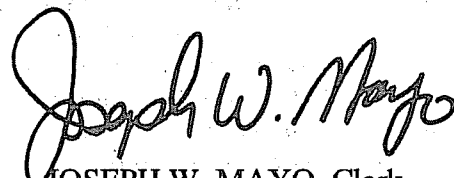
No. 1150

H.P. 845

House of Representatives, April 1, 1993

**An Act to Promote Electronic Transfer of Funds and Other Information
System Improvements in State Government.**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative JOSEPH of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator: BERUBE of Androscoggin.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1543, first ¶,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 312, §3, is amended to read:

6 ~~No--money--shall~~ Money may not be drawn from the State Treasury, except in accordance with appropriations duly authorized by law. Every disbursement from the State Treasury shall must be upon the authorization of the State Controller and the Treasurer of State, as evidenced by their facsimile signatures, except that the Treasurer of State may authorize interbank and intrabank transfers for purposes of pooled investments. Disbursements shall must be in the form of a check or an electronic transfer of funds against a designated bank or trust company acting as a depository of the State Government.

16 **Sec. 2. Electronic transfer of cash assistance payments.** By January 1, 1994, the Department of Human Services shall give recipients of all cash assistance programs the option of receiving the cash assistance through an electronic transfer of funds. Cash assistance programs include, but are not limited to, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Additional Support for People in Retraining and Education and child support collection payments. The Department of Human Services shall phase in as soon as possible, but not later than July 1, 1995, the use of electronic transfer technology to reimburse municipalities for all general assistance money owed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1161.

30 **Sec. 3. Electronic transfer of retirement benefits.** By January 1, 1995, the Maine State Retirement System shall make available payments to beneficiaries through electronic transfers of funds. Retirement beneficiaries who take advantage of the electronic transfer option do not receive a monthly statement of benefit transfers, but must receive at least an annual summary statement of benefits transferred and a statement whenever there is a change in their benefits.

38 **Sec. 4. Automation of functions in the Department of Human Services.** The Department of Human Services shall accept a 90% federal match to implement enhanced computer technology in the Medicaid program that eliminates paper claims from Medicaid providers and creates an instantaneous data base of Medicaid claims information. The Department of Human Services shall accept a 90% federal match to automate eligibility functions in income maintenance programs. The Department of Human Services shall phase in these technological improvements as soon as possible, but not later than July 1, 1995, and shall implement a single eligibility process for its income maintenance programs by January 1, 1995.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

6 This bill amends a section of the Maine Revised Statutes
regarding disbursements of state funds to allow broader use of
8 electronic transfers of funds and requires that electronic
transfers of funds be expanded in the State's cash assistance
10 programs and for state retirement benefits. The bill also
directs the Department of Human Services to take advantage of
12 federal matching funds to improve automation of Medicaid claims
and eligibility functions in income maintenance programs.

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