

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 2180

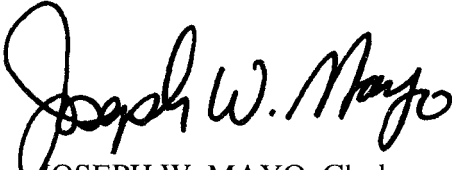
H.P. 1527

House of Representatives, April 9, 1999

**An Act to Promote Participation in the Maine Residents Property Tax Program.**

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUDLEY of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset and  
Representatives: GAGNON of Waterville, LEMONT of Kittery, MURPHY of Berwick,  
STEVENS of Orono, TESSIER of Fairfield, TOWNSEND of Portland, Senator: RAND of  
Cumberland.

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6221 is enacted to read:

**§6221. Coordinated outreach by Department of Human Services and bureau**

At least annually, the Department of Human Services and the bureau shall cooperate to ensure that an application for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program is mailed to each household receiving public assistance from a program administered by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Family Independence. For the purposes of this section, "public assistance" means funds from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Medicaid; Cub Care; food stamps or food assistance; state supplemental income for blind, disabled and elderly people; and Parents as Scholars Program.

At least annually, the Department of Human Services and the bureau shall cooperate to ensure that tax filers with incomes low enough to make them potentially eligible for public assistance programs administered by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Family Independence receive notice of the availability of those programs and how to apply for them.

This section in no way abrogates any rule of confidentiality under which either the Department of Human Services or the bureau operates.

**Sec. 2. Report by Bureau of Revenue Services.** The Bureau of Revenue Services shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters by January 1, 2001 reviewing the impact of the promotional campaign and outreach provided for in this Act. The report may include suggested legislation, and the committee is authorized to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature based upon the report.

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

	1999-00	2000-01
<b>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
<b>Bureau of Family Independence</b>		
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000

2	Provides funds for the mailing of Maine Residents Property Tax Program applications to public assistance recipients.		
4			
6			
8	<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES</b>		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
10			
12	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES,</b>		
	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
14	<b>Bureau of Revenue Services</b>		
16	All Other	\$250,000	\$50,000
18	Provides funds to conduct a promotional campaign in newsprint, television and radio public service announcements and using targeted mailings to low-income tax filers to publicize the availability of benefits under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program.		
20			
22			
24			
26			
28			
30	<b>DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
	<b>AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>		
32	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
34			
	<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<u>\$300,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

38 **SUMMARY**

40 This bill requires the Bureau of Revenue Services and the Department of Human Services to ensure that persons receiving certain public assistance from the Department of Human Services receive an application for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program in the mail. It also ensures that low-income tax filers receive notice of the availability of certain public assistance programs administered by the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Family Independence. The bill also requires the Bureau of Revenue Services to conduct an outreach campaign to encourage people to apply for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program and provides for the electronic filing of those applications.