

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

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Legislative Document

No. 2170

H.P. 1665

House of Representatives, March 12, 2002

**An Act to Ensure Maine Citizens in Recovery from Drug Addiction  
Equal Access to Public Assistance.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative PEAVEY of Woolwich.  
Cosponsored by Senator TURNER of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BRUNO of Raymond, KANE of Saco, NORBERT of Portland, SNOWE-  
MELLO of Poland, Senators: DAGGETT of Kennebec, SMALL of Sagadahoc, TREAT of  
Kennebec.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

6 **14. Prohibition against denial of assistance based on drug**  
8 **conviction.** A person who is otherwise eligible to receive food  
10 assistance under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, 7 United  
12 States Code, Sections 2011 to 2036 may not be denied assistance  
because the person has been convicted of a drug-related felony as  
described in the federal Personal Responsibility and Work  
Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193,  
Section 115, 110 Stat. 2105.

14 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§17** is enacted to read:

16 **17. Prohibition against denial of assistance based on drug**  
18 **conviction.** A person who is otherwise eligible to receive TANF  
20 may not be denied assistance because the person has been  
convicted of a drug-related felony as described in Section 115 of  
PRWORA.

22 **SUMMARY**

24  
26 This bill provides that a person who is otherwise eligible  
28 to receive food assistance under the federal Food Stamp Act of  
30 1977 or to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families may  
not be denied assistance because the person has been convicted of  
a drug-related felony. Federal law denies assistance to such a  
person unless a state legislature enacts legislation exempting  
its citizens from this prohibition.