

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 848

H.P. 625

House of Representatives, February 20, 2003

An Act To Establish a Circuit Breaker Program for Fuel Assistance

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRESSEY of Baldwin.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** this legislation provides financial assistance to
help with home heating costs; and

8 **Whereas,** it is in the winter months that this assistance is
crucial; and

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

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

18 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4995** is enacted to read:

20 **§4995. Maine Heating Fuel Assistance Program**

22 The Maine Heating Fuel Assistance Program is established to
24 provide reimbursement to taxpayers for heating fuel costs. The
authority shall administer the program as provided in this
26 subchapter. Reimbursement must be at 45¢ on each dollar spent
for home heating fuel for the months of December to March.

28 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the
30 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
following meanings.

32 A. "Claimant" means a person who has filed a claim under
34 this section, who was domiciled in the State, whose
household income is within 150% of the federal poverty
36 guidelines and who paid heating fuel costs to heat that
domicile during the year for which relief is requested. If
38 2 or more persons from the same household meet the
qualifications under this paragraph, each person may apply
40 on the basis of the amount of heating fuel costs paid by
that person.

42 **2. Readability; application; instructions.** The application
44 form and instructions used by claimants under this section must
have a readability score, as determined by a recognized
46 instrument for measuring adult literacy levels, equivalent to no
higher than a grade 6 reading level.

