

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 2025

H.P. 1426

House of Representatives, February 23, 2006

**An Act To Implement Recommendations of the Study Commission
Regarding Liveable Wages Concerning the Circuit Breaker
Program**

Reported by Representative LERMAN of Augusta for the Study Commission Regarding Liveable Wages pursuant to Resolve 2005, chapter 128.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed under Joint Rule 218.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6201, sub-§11-A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. E, §2 and
3 affected by §§7 and 8, is further amended to read:

4 **11-A. Rent constituting property taxes accrued for nonelderly household.**
5 "Rent constituting property taxes accrued for nonelderly household" means ~~20%~~ 22% of
6 the gross rent actually paid in cash or its equivalent in any tax year by a claimant and the
7 claimant's household solely for the right of occupancy of their Maine homestead in the
8 tax year and which rent constitutes the basis, in the succeeding calendar year, of a claim
9 for relief under this chapter by the claimant.

10 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6207, sub-§1, ¶A-1**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. E, §4
11 and affected by §§7 and 8, is further amended to read:

12 A-1. Fifty percent of that portion of the benefit base that exceeds 4% but does not
13 exceed 8% of income plus 100% of that portion of the benefit base that exceeds 8%
14 of income to a maximum payment of ~~\$2,000~~ \$5,000.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill is a recommendation of the Study Commission Regarding Liveable Wages.
17 The bill increases the maximum refund amount for homeowners under the Maine
18 Residents Property Tax Program, the so-called "circuit breaker program," from \$2,000 to
19 \$5,000 and increases the renter's benefit from 20% to 22%.