

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 249

S.P. 87

In Senate, February 3, 2015

An Act To Enable Seniors To Remain in Their Homes

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Senators: BURNS of Washington, DAVIS of Piscataquis, KATZ of
Kennebec, WHITTEMORE of Somerset, Representative: BUCKLAND of Farmington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13073-C** is enacted to read:

3 **§13073-C. Home Weatherization and Repair for Seniors Program**

4 **1. Program established; administration.** The Home Weatherization and Repair for
5 Seniors Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the
6 department to assist low-income residents of the State 65 years of age or older by
7 facilitating housing improvements that allow them to remain in their homes safely,
8 independently and comfortably as they age. The housing improvements include but are
9 not limited to weatherization and improvements to meet the standards of the federal
10 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to replace substandard fixtures and hardware
11 and to reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs. All funds received for this
12 program must be deposited into the Home Weatherization and Repair for Seniors Fund
13 established by subsection 3.

14 **2. Eligibility.** Only residents of the State 65 years of age or older eligible for the
15 Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program administered through the United States
16 Department of Health and Human Services are eligible for assistance under the program.

17 **3. Home Weatherization and Repair for Seniors Fund created.** The Home
18 Weatherization and Repair for Seniors Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is
19 established to provide funding for the program. The fund is a dedicated, nonlapsing fund,
20 and all revenues deposited in the fund remain in the fund and must be disbursed in
21 accordance with subsection 4.

22 **4. Distribution of the fund.** The department shall disburse money from the fund to
23 a statewide network that provides weatherization and home repair services, including but
24 not limited to repairs to meet the standards of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act
25 of 1990, to replace substandard fixtures and hardware and to reduce ongoing maintenance
26 and heating costs, to low-income residents of the State.

27 **5. Reporting.** A member of the network who receives money from the fund in
28 accordance with subsection 4 shall report annually to the department on the use of the
29 money, including the number of houses improved, the number of residents in those
30 houses and the amounts of other funds leveraged.

31 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made.

33 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**
34 **Home Weatherization and Repair for Seniors Program**

35 Initiative: Provides funds for the statewide Home Weatherization and Repair for Seniors
36 Program.

1	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
2	All Other	\$750,000	\$750,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$750,000</u>	<u>\$750,000</u>

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This bill establishes the Home Weatherization and Repair for Seniors Program in the
7 Department of Economic and Community Development to assist low-income seniors in
8 remaining in their homes. It also establishes the Home Weatherization and Repair for
9 Seniors Fund and appropriates money to the fund. The department is required to disburse
10 money from the fund to a statewide network that provides weatherization and home
11 repair services, including but not limited to repairs to meet the standards of the federal
12 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to replace substandard fixtures and hardware
13 and to reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs, to low-income residents of the
14 State.