

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1052

H.P. 721

House of Representatives, March 24, 2015

An Act To Feed Rural Citizens of the State

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HAMANN of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator HASKELL of Cumberland and
Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, GATTINE of Westbrook, HICKMAN of Winthrop,
MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McCABE of Skowhegan, STUCKEY of Portland, Senators: HILL of
York, JOHNSON of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§15** is enacted to read:

3 **15. Waiver of federal limits on assistance for individuals residing in high**
4 **unemployment areas with insufficient jobs.** Beginning with federal fiscal year 2016
5 and for each federal fiscal year thereafter, the department shall seek a waiver pursuant to
6 7 United States Code Section 2015(o)(4) to allow individuals otherwise subject to the 3-
7 month limit on food supplement program benefits pursuant to 7 United States Code
8 Section 2015(o)(2) to continue to receive food supplement program benefits if those
9 individuals reside in counties, labor market areas or other areas that qualify for a waiver
10 because of high unemployment or a lack of a sufficient number of jobs to provide
11 employment for those individuals. The department shall adopt routine technical rules
12 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to implement this subsection.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a waiver
15 beginning with federal fiscal year 2016, which begins October 1, 2015, and for each
16 federal fiscal year thereafter to allow individuals otherwise subject to a 3-month limit on
17 federal food supplement program benefits to continue to receive benefits if those
18 individuals reside in counties, labor market areas or other areas that qualify for a waiver
19 because of high unemployment or a lack of a sufficient number of jobs to provide
20 employment for those individuals.