

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1435

H.P. 990

House of Representatives, April 13, 2017

An Act To Ensure Transparency in the Distribution of Federal Block Grant Funds

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 JORGENSEN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, HYMANSON of York, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,
PIERCE of Falmouth, VACHON of Scarborough, Senator: KATZ of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22-A MRSA §211-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§211-A. Federal block grant funds expenditure plan**

4 Annually, the department shall develop and submit to the joint standing committee of
5 the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs a proposed
6 plan for expenditures of federal block grant funds. The plan must include a description of
7 current expenditures of federal block grant funds and how the department proposes to
8 change any expenditure, including, but not limited to, how the department proposes to
9 reduce or remove funding for existing approved services. The department may not make
10 an expenditure from any federal block grant unless the expenditure is recommended by
11 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations
12 and financial affairs and approved by the Legislature, except that, if the Legislature is not
13 in session, upon a determination by the commissioner that an expenditure is necessary to
14 avert an emergency and with 60 days' notice to the joint standing committee of the
15 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, the department
16 may make an expenditure that has not been approved by the Legislature.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services annually to develop
19 and submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
20 appropriations and financial affairs proposed plans for expenditures of federal block grant
21 funds including a description of current expenditures of federal block grant funds and
22 how the department proposes to change any expenditure. Under the bill, the department
23 may not make an expenditure from any federal block grant unless the expenditure is
24 recommended by the joint standing committee and approved by the Legislature. When
25 the Legislature is not in session, the department may make an expenditure if the
26 Commissioner of Health and Human Services determines that the expenditure is
27 necessary to avert an emergency and provides 60 days' notice to the joint standing
28 committee.