

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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5/11/22
ROS

L.D. 2006

Date: 3/31/22

(Filing No. H- 900)

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LABOR AND HOUSING

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Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5

STATE OF MAINE

6

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

7

130TH LEGISLATURE

8

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

9

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1492, L.D. 2006, "An Act To Improve the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program"

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11

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

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'Sec. 1. 30-A MRS §4992-A, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

13

6. Benefits not considered income. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary unless enacted in express limitation of this subsection, the amount of any home energy assistance payments or allowances provided directly to, or indirectly for the benefit of, a household under this section may not be considered income or resources of that household or any member of that household for any purpose under any state law, including any law relating to taxation, to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits administered under Title 22, section 3104 and to public assistance or welfare programs.'

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Amend the bill in section 2 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 24 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Fund" the following: 'to be used for the purposes described in this section from the effective date of this Act until June 30, 2023'

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Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

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'Sec. 3. Unused funds. Any balance remaining of the funds provided in section 5 at the end of fiscal year 2022 may be carried over to fiscal year 2023 for the same purpose. Any balance remaining in the fund on June 30, 2023 must be returned to the General Fund.'

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Amend the bill by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following:

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'Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

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Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program Administrative Efficiency Fund

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N417

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Initiative: Provides funding for the purpose of increasing the capacity to accept and process applications in a timely manner.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

1	GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
2	All Other	\$1,000,000	\$0
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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6 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section

7 number to read consecutively.

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This amendment clarifies a provision in the bill that states that payments and assistance

10 distributed from the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program are not considered

11 income for any purpose under state law, including any law relating to taxation, to

12 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and to public assistance or welfare

13 programs, by incorporating the provision into the section of statute that directs the Maine

14 State Housing Authority to administer the program. The amendment also reduces the

15 appropriation to the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program Administrative

16 Efficiency Fund from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000 and specifies that balances remaining in

17 the fund on June 30, 2023 must be returned to the General Fund.

18 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

19 **(See attached)**

10-22

Approved: 03/22/22 *MAC*



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2006

LR 2548(02)

An Act To Improve the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-900)
Committee: Labor and Housing
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to a newly created Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Administrative Efficiency Fund within the Maine State Housing Authority to increase the capacity to accept and process applications for the LIHEAP program in a timely manner.

Additional costs to the Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services to convene and take part in the required working group to investigate ways to improve and increase the efficiency of the LIHEAP program can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.