

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 87

H.P. 55

House of Representatives, January 9, 2023

**An Act to Permit Emergency Funding for Food Banks When a State  
of Emergency Is Declared**

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Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PAULHUS of Bath.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

3 **9. Emergency funding for nonprofit food banks.** During a state of emergency  
4 declared in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1, the Governor may  
5 distribute up to \$400,000 from the stabilization fund to nonprofit entities, including food  
6 banks, food pantries and soup kitchens, that provide or distribute food to low-income,  
7 indigent or unemployed individuals or households without charge. The Commissioner of  
8 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to prescribe the manner in which  
9 the funds distributed under this subsection must be disbursed. The commissioner may  
10 leverage funds distributed under this subsection to match any relevant federal funding  
11 available for qualifying food programs in the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this  
12 subsection are routine technical rules as described in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill authorizes the Governor to distribute up to \$400,000 from the Maine Budget  
15 Stabilization Fund during a state of emergency to nonprofit entities, including food banks,  
16 food pantries and soup kitchens, that provide or distribute food to low-income, indigent or  
17 unemployed individuals or households without charge.

18 It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules  
19 to prescribe the manner in which the emergency funding for nonprofit entities must be  
20 disbursed and authorizes the commissioner to leverage emergency funding for nonprofit  
21 entities to match any relevant federal funding available for qualifying food programs in the  
22 State.