

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

AND AT THE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
August 3, 1981

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
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CHAPTER 135**H. P. 529 — L. D. 595****AN ACT to Exempt Fuel Adjustment Charges of Electric Utilities from the Requirement that such Charges be Prorated.****Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:****35 MRSA § 66, first sentence is amended to read:**

It shall be unlawful for any public utility to charge, demand, collect or receive a greater or less compensation, except as otherwise provided in section 103, for any service performed by it within the State or for any service in connection therewith, than is specified in such printed schedules, including schedules of joint rates, as may at the time be in force, or to demand, collect or receive any rate, toll or charge not specified in such schedules, **except that when an electric utility changes its fuel adjustment charges pursuant to section 131, the commission may, for billing purposes, order that the change be applied to all kilowatt hours reflected in meter readings on or after the effective date of the change, or to such other period as it deems just and reasonable.**

Effective September 18, 1981

CHAPTER 136**S. P. 257 — L. D. 739****AN ACT to Clarify Food Stamp Allotment Calculations in Cases of Immediate Economic Loss.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, in the current economic climate of this State and this Nation, there are many people being temporarily laid off from or losing jobs; and

Whereas, many of these people are already in sufficiently difficult circumstances that they are receiving food stamp allotments; and

Whereas, the temporary cessation of pay or loss of a job imposes severe economic hardship on these citizens of the State; and

Whereas, there is every prospect of these difficulties continuing through the spring and summer; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

22 MRSA § 3104, sub-§ 10 is enacted to read:

10. **Supplemental monthly issuance.** Whenever a household receiving food stamps informs the department of a change in circumstances which will result in an increase in its food stamp allotment, the department shall issue a supplemental food stamp allotment to that household for the month in which the change is reported. The supplemental allotment shall represent the difference between the amount for which the household was originally certified in that month and the amount for which it is actually eligible as a result of its reported change in circumstances.

The department shall mail such supplemental allotment within 5 working days of the date that the change in circumstances was reported.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect on June 1, 1981.

Effective June 1, 1981

CHAPTER 137

S. P. 145 — L. D. 316

AN ACT to Provide Collective Bargaining Rights to County Employees.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA § 962, sub-§ 7, as amended by PL 1975, c. 9, is further amended to read:

7. **Public employer.** "Public employer" means any officer, board, commission, council, committee or other persons or body acting on behalf of any municipality or town or any subdivision thereof, or of any school, water, sewer or other district, or of the Maine Turnpike Authority, or of any county or any subdivisions thereof