

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
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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

1981

CHAPTER 494
H. P. 19 — L. D. 25

AN ACT to Provide Relocation Assistance to Certain Persons Ineligible for Federal Benefits.

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

1 MRSA c. 24 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 24

ALTERNATE RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

§ 951. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a policy for the treatment of persons displaced as a result of public use programs, funded in whole or in part by public entities, for persons to whom no assistance is available under federal law or any other provisions of state law.

§ 952. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. **Displaced person.** "Displaced person" means any individual or entity who moves from a dwelling or place of business as a result of the acquisition, in whole or in part, of any interest in the land or the structure on which or in which that dwelling or place of business is located for a public use project:

- A. By public entity;
- B. As a result of a written order from a public entity to vacate the dwelling or place of business; or
- C. By any individual or entity on behalf of, under agreement with or with funding from a public entity.

This definition shall be construed so that persons displaced as a result of public action or public participation receive relocation benefits in cases where they are displaced as a result of an owner participation agreement or an acquisition carried out by a private individual or entity for or in connection with a public use project, where the public entity is otherwise empowered to acquire the property to carry out the public use.

2. **Public entity.** "Public entity" includes the State, counties, municipalities, departments, agencies and any other political subdivisions of the State.

3. **Public use project.** "Public use project" means a project developed with the assistance, cooperation, guidance or support of any public entity, the purpose of which is to provide facilities for the use of the public. It does not include any single business obtaining funding or security for private funding from the United States Small Business Administration.

§ 953. Offer of assistance

1. **Written offer; terms.** Within 14 days after the acquisition of real property by a public entity or any person covered by the terms of this chapter and not less than 30 days prior to the date upon which the dwelling or place of business must be vacated, the public entity acquiring the land or building, ordering the dwelling or place of business vacated, or on whose behalf, under whose agreement or with whose funding the acquiring person is acting, shall make a payment to compensate any person or entity who will become displaced for estimated:

A. Actual reasonable expenses in moving himself, his family, business, farm operation or other personal property;

B. Actual direct losses of tangible personal property as a result of moving or discontinuing a business or farm operation, but not to exceed an amount equal to the reasonable expenses that would have been required to relocate such property, as determined by the department; and

C. Actual reasonable expenses in searching for a replacement business or farm.

Within 14 days after the displaced person has moved, and upon presentation of documentation of items listed in paragraphs A, B and C, the same public entity shall pay to the displaced person any actual reasonable expenses and losses in excess of the estimated payment made previously. If the estimated payment exceeds the actual reasonable expenses and losses, the displaced person may retain the difference.

2. **Moving expense allowance.** Any displaced person eligible for payments under subsection 1, who is displaced from a dwelling and who elects not to accept the payments authorized by subsection 1, may receive a moving expense allowance, determined according to a schedule established by the department, not to exceed \$300, and a dislocation allowance of \$200.

3. **Fixed payment.** Any displaced person eligible for payments under subsection 1, who is displaced from his place of business or from his farm operation and who elects not to accept the payment authorized by subsection 1, may receive a fixed payment in an amount equal to the average annual net earnings of the business or farm operation, except that such payment shall be not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$10,000. In the case of a business, no payment may be made under this subsection unless the department is satisfied that the business:

- A. Cannot be relocated without a substantial loss of its existing patronage; and
- B. Is not part of a commercial enterprise having at least one other establishment not being acquired by a public entity or individual, or private entity on behalf of, under agreement with or with funding from a public entity, which is engaged in the same or similar business.

§ 954. Ineligible persons

Persons who are qualified to receive relocation benefits under chapter 23 and the United States Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, Public Law 91-646, are not eligible for benefits under this chapter.

Effective September 18, 1981

CHAPTER 495

H. P. 224 — L. D. 261

AN ACT to Establish a Maine Set-aside Program under the State Purchasing Law to Expand Work Opportunities for Multiple Handicapped Citizens.

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

5 MRSA § 1816, sub-§ 11 is enacted to read:

11. Preference for Maine sheltered workshop. Notwithstanding inconsistent provisions of law, the State Purchasing Agent or other contracting officer shall award a contract for the purchase of goods or services made or manufactured by handicapped individuals to an in-state bidder that is a responsible sheltered workshop who has not submitted the lowest bid pursuant to the following provisions.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, the following words have the following meanings.

(1) "Goods or services made or manufactured by handicapped individuals" means goods or services for which not less than 75% of the manhours of direct labor required for production are performed by handicapped individuals.

(2) "Sheltered workshop" means a facility, certified by the United States Department of Labor regulations covering employment of handicapped clients, engaged in production or service operation for the primary purpose of providing gainful employment for those who cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market, or of providing interim employment during such time as employment opportunities for them in the competitive labor market do not exist.