



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 995

H.P. 642

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

An Act to Provide Funding for Low-income Electric Ratepayer Assistance

Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT

Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, FOSTER of Dexter, KESSLER of South Portland,
MCINTYRE of Lowell, RUNTE of York, STOVER of Boothbay, WARREN of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 201, §1; c. 230,
3 §2; c. 306, §§2 and 3; and c. 361, §§3 to 5, is further amended by enacting at the end a new
4 last blocked paragraph to read:

5 As used in this subsection, "low-income household" means a household with income of no
6 more than 150% of the federal poverty level, as defined in Title 22, section 3762, subsection
7 1, paragraph C.

8 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
9 allocations are made.

10 **HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

11 **Low-income Home Energy Assistance - MSHA 0708**

12 Initiative: Provides one-time funds in fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27 only for
13 low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

14 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
15 All Other	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000
16		
17 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$7,500,000</u>	<u>\$7,500,000</u>

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill specifies, for purposes of needs-based low-income assistance for electricity
20 customers, that "low-income household" means a household with income of no more than
21 150% of the federal poverty level. The bill also provides one-time funds of \$7,500,000 in
22 fiscal year 2025-26 and in fiscal year 2026-27 for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.