



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 1188

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H.P. 821

House of Representatives, April 1, 2015

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### **An Act To Implement a Rental Assistance Program for Low-income Households and Individuals**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREY of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and  
Representatives: HERBIG of Belfast, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, ROTUNDO of Lewiston,  
Senator: VALENTINO of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4852, sub-§2, ¶E** is enacted to read:

3 E. Beginning January 1, 2016 and annually thereafter, the Maine State Housing  
4 Authority shall allocate to the rental assistance program in section 4859 an amount  
5 equal to \$3,000,000 from funds in the fund that are in excess of the amount of funds  
6 received in the fund in fiscal year 2014-15.

7 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4859** is enacted to read:

8 **§4859. Rental assistance program**

9 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
10 following terms have the following meanings:

11 A. "Available funds" means the remaining funds after administrative costs of the  
12 Maine State Housing Authority in implementing the program, which may not exceed  
13 5% of the funds allocated to the program under section 4852, subsection 2, paragraph  
14 E;

15 B. "Local area" means a geographically defined area in the State determined by a  
16 formula adopted by the Maine State Housing Authority that considers factors  
17 including the availability and affordability of housing for low-income households and  
18 individuals and the condition and cost burden of housing; and

19 C. "Program" means the rental assistance program in subsection 2.

20 **2. Rental assistance program.** Beginning January 1, 2016, the Maine State  
21 Housing Authority shall implement a rental assistance program for low-income  
22 households and individuals in the State.

23 **3. Eligibility; participation.** A household or individual that has applied for but not  
24 yet received assistance from a housing choice voucher program administered by the  
25 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is eligible to participate in  
26 the program, subject to fund availability. A participant in the program may receive  
27 assistance only if the rent of the participant's housing meets the fair market rent standards  
28 published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the  
29 area in which the participant's housing is located and meets any housing quality standards  
30 adopted by the Maine State Housing Authority. A participant in the program shall pay the  
31 same portion of the participant's income towards rent as required by the formula used by  
32 a housing choice voucher program administered by the United States Department of  
33 Housing and Urban Development. The Maine State House Authority shall determine the  
34 eligibility of a household or individual on a yearly basis.

35 **4. Funds allocation.** The program shall distribute funds throughout the State  
36 pursuant to this subsection. The program shall allocate 100% of its available funds to  
37 participants with incomes at or below 30% of the median income of the local area.

