**An Act To Facilitate Access to Heating Assistance**

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

**Sec.** **1. 30-A MRSA §4992, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1991, c. 622, Pt. J, §23 and affected by §25, is amended to read:

**4.** **Availability standards.**  Standards requiring local program operators and administrators to be available to the general public for a minimum specified period of time each week; ~~and~~

**Sec.** **2. 30-A MRSA §4992, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 1991, c. 622, Pt. J, §23 and affected by §25, is amended to read:

**5.** **Expeditious provision of assistance standards.**  Standards that ensure that qualified program recipients are expeditiously provided with assistance by the local program operator or administrator~~.~~; and

**Sec.** **3. 30-A MRSA §4992, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

**6.** **Application.**  Standards that, beginning no later than the 2022-23 winter season, require local program operators and administrators to accept online applications for the fuel assistance program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to adopt rules for the administration of its fuel assistance program that require local program operators and administrators to accept online applications for the program beginning no later than the 2022-23 winter season.