



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 87

H.P. 55

House of Representatives, January 9, 2023

An Act to Permit Emergency Funding for Food Banks When a State of Emergency Is Declared

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PAULHUS of Bath.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

3 **9. Emergency funding for nonprofit food banks.** During a state of emergency
4 declared in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1, the Governor may
5 distribute up to \$400,000 from the stabilization fund to nonprofit entities, including food
6 banks, food pantries and soup kitchens, that provide or distribute food to low-income,
7 indigent or unemployed individuals or households without charge. The Commissioner of
8 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to prescribe the manner in which
9 the funds distributed under this subsection must be disbursed. The commissioner may
10 leverage funds distributed under this subsection to match any relevant federal funding
11 available for qualifying food programs in the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this
12 subsection are routine technical rules as described in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill authorizes the Governor to distribute up to \$400,000 from the Maine Budget
15 Stabilization Fund during a state of emergency to nonprofit entities, including food banks,
16 food pantries and soup kitchens, that provide or distribute food to low-income, indigent or
17 unemployed individuals or households without charge.

18 It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules
19 to prescribe the manner in which the emergency funding for nonprofit entities must be
20 disbursed and authorizes the commissioner to leverage emergency funding for nonprofit
21 entities to match any relevant federal funding available for qualifying food programs in the
22 State.