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Date: (Filing No. H-)

LABOR AND HOUSING

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1492, L.D. 2006, “An Act To Improve the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4992-A, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Benefits not considered income. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary unless enacted in express limitation of this subsection, the amount of any home energy assistance payments or allowances provided directly to, or indirectly for the benefit of, a household under this section may not be considered income or resources of that household or any member of that household for any purpose under any state law, including any law relating to taxation, to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits administered under Title 22, section 3104 and to public assistance or welfare programs.'

Amend the bill in section 2 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 24 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Fund" the following: 'to be used for the purposes described in this section from the effective date of this Act until June 30, 2023'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. Unused funds. Any balance remaining of the funds provided in section 5 at the end of fiscal year 2022 may be carried over to fiscal year 2023 for the same purpose. Any balance remaining in the fund on June 30, 2023 must be returned to the General Fund.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE
Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program Administrative Efficiency Fund
N417**

Initiative: Provides funding for the purpose of increasing the capacity to accept and process applications in a timely manner.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

	2021-22	2022-23
1 GENERAL FUND		
2 All Other	\$1,000,000	\$0
3		
4 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

5

6 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
7 number to read consecutively.

8

SUMMARY

9 This amendment clarifies a provision in the bill that states that payments and assistance
10 distributed from the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program are not considered
11 income for any purpose under state law, including any law relating to taxation, to
12 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and to public assistance or welfare
13 programs, by incorporating the provision into the section of statute that directs the Maine
14 State Housing Authority to administer the program. The amendment also reduces the
15 appropriation to the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program Administrative
16 Efficiency Fund from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000 and specifies that balances remaining in
17 the fund on June 30, 2023 must be returned to the General Fund.

18

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

19

(See attached)