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.

Presented by Representative PAULHUS of Bath.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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

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

SUMMARY

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

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