

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 55 - L.D. 87

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

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 that exceeds 10 days, the Governor, in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, 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. The Governor may not suspend under Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1, paragraph C, subparagraph (1) rules adopted under this subsection.