



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

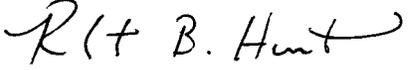
No. 462

H.P. 279

House of Representatives, February 7, 2023

**An Act to Assist Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Areas of
High Rent by Seeking a Waiver from the Federal Government**

Reference to the Joint Select Committee on Housing suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: LOOKNER of Portland, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of
Knox.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4748** is enacted to read:

3 **§4748. Fair market rent; temporary waiver for homeless**

4 For an area where the actual fair market rent for existing housing is greater than the
5 fair market rent calculated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban
6 Development, the Maine State Housing Authority shall seek a temporary waiver of the
7 requirements of a housing voucher program administered by the United States Department
8 of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public
9 Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8 or any other federal housing assistance program to
10 permit additional funds to cover the cost of the actual fair market rent for a person who is
11 homeless. The temporary waiver must be terminated when the fair market rent calculated
12 by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is equal to or greater
13 than the actual fair market rent for existing housing in the area.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill provides that, for an area where the actual fair market rent for existing housing
16 is greater than the fair market rent calculated by the United States Department of Housing
17 and Urban Development, the Maine State Housing Authority is required to seek a
18 temporary waiver of the requirements of the so-called Section 8 housing program
19 administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or any
20 other federal housing assistance program to permit additional funds to cover the cost of the
21 actual fair market rent for a person who is homeless. The temporary waiver must be
22 terminated when the fair market rent calculated by the United States Department of
23 Housing and Urban Development is equal to or greater than the actual fair market rent for
24 existing housing in the area.