

## 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1052

H.P. 721

House of Representatives, March 24, 2015

An Act To Feed Rural Citizens of the State

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative HAMANN of South Portland. Cosponsored by Senator HASKELL of Cumberland and Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, GATTINE of Westbrook, HICKMAN of Winthrop,

MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McCABE of Skowhegan, STUCKEY of Portland, Senators: HILL of York, JOHNSON of Lincoln.

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

## **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§15** is enacted to read:

15. Waiver of federal limits on assistance for individuals residing in high unemployment areas with insufficient jobs. Beginning with federal fiscal year 2016 and for each federal fiscal year thereafter, the department shall seek a waiver pursuant to 7 United States Code Section 2015(o)(4) to allow individuals otherwise subject to the 3-month limit on food supplement program benefits pursuant to 7 United States Code Section 2015(o)(2) to continue to receive food supplement program benefits if those individuals reside in counties, labor market areas or other areas that qualify for a waiver because of high unemployment or a lack of a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals. The department shall adopt routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to implement this subsection.

13 SUMMARY

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a waiver beginning with federal fiscal year 2016, which begins October 1, 2015, and for each federal fiscal year thereafter to allow individuals otherwise subject to a 3-month limit on federal food supplement program benefits to continue to receive benefits if those individuals reside in counties, labor market areas or other areas that qualify for a waiver because of high unemployment or a lack of a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals.