

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 388 - L.D. 611

Resolve, Establishing a Working Group to Maximize Eligibility for Energy Efficiency Programs for Low-income Homeowners

Sec. 1. Maine State Housing Authority to convene a working group to maximize eligibility for energy efficiency programs for low-income homeowners. Resolved: That the Maine State Housing Authority shall convene a working group to design a program that will provide financial assistance to low-income homeowners for weatherization and other repairs needed to meet the eligibility requirements for home energy assistance programs. The working group must include input from community action agencies as designated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5324, the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, one or more professional contractors who make weatherization repairs and other entities as considered appropriate by the Maine State Housing Authority.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That by December 1, 2023, the working group under section 1 shall submit a report to the Joint Select Committee on Housing proposing a program to provide financial assistance to low-income homeowners for weatherization and other repairs needed to meet eligibility requirements for home energy assistance programs. When developing the proposal for a program, the working group must ensure that it includes a provision to evaluate if the amount of financial assistance necessary for weatherization or repair is reasonable relative to the anticipated benefit from the home energy assistance program and if the overall suitability of the home makes the weatherization or repair a worthwhile investment. The proposal must be designed to serve residential housing units with household incomes up to 100% of the area median income and serve as a complement to, not a substitute for, weatherization assistance paid for using federal funds, including the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund within the Maine State Housing Authority.