



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1435

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H.P. 990

House of Representatives, April 13, 2017

### **An Act To Ensure Transparency in the Distribution of Federal Block Grant Funds**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative JORGENSEN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and  
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, HYMANSON of York, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,  
PIERCE of Falmouth, VACHON of Scarborough, Senator: KATZ of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22-A MRSA §211-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§211-A. Federal block grant funds expenditure plan**

4 Annually, the department shall develop and submit to the joint standing committee of  
5 the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs a proposed  
6 plan for expenditures of federal block grant funds. The plan must include a description of  
7 current expenditures of federal block grant funds and how the department proposes to  
8 change any expenditure, including, but not limited to, how the department proposes to  
9 reduce or remove funding for existing approved services. The department may not make  
10 an expenditure from any federal block grant unless the expenditure is recommended by  
11 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations  
12 and financial affairs and approved by the Legislature, except that, if the Legislature is not  
13 in session, upon a determination by the commissioner that an expenditure is necessary to  
14 avert an emergency and with 60 days' notice to the joint standing committee of the  
15 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, the department  
16 may make an expenditure that has not been approved by the Legislature.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services annually to develop  
19 and submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
20 appropriations and financial affairs proposed plans for expenditures of federal block grant  
21 funds including a description of current expenditures of federal block grant funds and  
22 how the department proposes to change any expenditure. Under the bill, the department  
23 may not make an expenditure from any federal block grant unless the expenditure is  
24 recommended by the joint standing committee and approved by the Legislature. When  
25 the Legislature is not in session, the department may make an expenditure if the  
26 Commissioner of Health and Human Services determines that the expenditure is  
27 necessary to avert an emergency and provides 60 days' notice to the joint standing  
28 committee.