

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2093

S.P. 886

In Senate, January 3, 2024

An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and
Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, President JACKSON of
Aroostook, PIERCE of Cumberland, Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, OSHER of
Orono, PLUECKER of Warren, STOVER of Boothbay.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 3 Whereas, Public Law 2023, chapter 412 provided one-time funding to capitalize the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives, which provides 4 5 incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables; and 6 7 Whereas, this legislation provides ongoing funding and increases the annual 8 appropriation to the fund and must be in effect before the expiration of the 90-day period 9 to ensure that program participants can access this vital assistance; and 10 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 12 13 therefore, 14 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 15 Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made. 16 AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF 17 18 Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives Z329 19 Initiative: Deappropriates one-time funding provided in Public Law 2023, chapter 412. 20 GENERAL FUND 2023-24 2024-25 21 All Other (\$600,000)\$0 22 23 \$0 (\$600.000)GENERAL FUND TOTAL 24 Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and 25 allocations are made. 26 AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF 27 Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives Z329 28 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide 29 Nutrition Incentives to be used to match contributions from private and public sources. 30 **GENERAL FUND** 2023-24 2024-25 31 All Other \$600,000 \$1,200,000 32 33 GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$600,000 \$1,200,000 34 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation 35 takes effect when approved. 36 SUMMARY 37 Public Law 2023, chapter 412 appropriated \$600,000 in one-time funds for each of the 38 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide

- Nutrition Incentives. This bill instead provides ongoing funding of \$1,200,000 per fiscal year to the fund to be used to match contributions from private and public sources. 1
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