

Notice of Agency Rule-making Proposal

AGENCY: 99-346 Maine State Housing Authority

CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 24, Home Energy Assistance Program

PROPOSED RULE NUMBER (*leave blank; assigned by Secretary of State*):

CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING: Linda Uhl, Chief Counsel, Maine State Housing Authority, State House Station #89, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330-6046, (207) 626-4600 (telephone), (800) 452-4668 (voice in state only) or Maine Relay 711, luhl@mainehousing.org (e-mail)

Upon sufficient notice, this notice and the proposed rule will be made available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities and in alternative languages for persons with limited English proficiency.

CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION (if different): Same as Contact Person

PUBLIC HEARING (if any): A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 9:30 AM. To listen or testify, please contact Gerrylynn Ricker no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at MaineHousing, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330-6046; (207) 626-4600 (voice); 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only); or 711 (Maine Relay) or via e-mail: gricker@mainehousing.org.

Upon sufficient notice, appropriate communications auxiliary aids and services will be provided to persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency.

COMMENT DEADLINE: Friday, May 28, 2021 at 5:00 PM

BRIEF *SUMMARY: This replacement rule repeals and replaces in its entirety the current Home Energy Assistance Program Rule. The rule establishes standards for administering fuel assistance, emergency fuel assistance, TANF Supplemental Benefits, weatherization, heat pumps, and heating system repair and replacement funds to low-income households in the State of Maine. This replacement rule: amends the definitions of "Heat Pump"; revises the calculation used to determine electricity costs for the consumption based method of determining a Benefit; updates the Benefit Matrix including rounding method used in determining poverty level brackets, language regarding heating degree days, and adding a new home energy type; updates the list of documents that can be used to document Social Security Numbers; removes reference to using an electronic verification system with the Social Security Administration; changes the fuel tank reading necessary for a Household to be eligible for ECIP; adds information regarding the Heat Pump Program; updates language regarding the amount of time a Household must reside in Maine in order to be considered eligible for HEAP; and changes the income verification period from the previous three (3) or twelve (12) month period to the previous one (1) month or thirty (30) day period. Other changes correct errors or provide clarification to the previous version of the rule.

A copy of the proposed replacement rule may be found at www.mainehousing.org.

IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES (if any) None

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE: 30-A M.R.S.A. §§4722(1)(W), 4741 (1) and (15), and 4991 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C.A. §§8621, *et seq.*

SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED (if different): Same as above

E-MAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULE-MAKING LIAISON: luhl@mainehousing.org

* *Check one of the following two boxes.*

The above summary is for use in both the newspaper and website notices.

The above summary is for the newspaper notice only. A more detailed summary / basis statement is attached.

Please approve bottom portion of this form and assign appropriate AdvantageME number.

APPROVED FOR PAYMENT _____ DATE: _____
(authorized signature)

FUND	AGENCY AMOUNT	ORG	APP	JOB	OBJT
------	------------------	-----	-----	-----	------