

970315

SUBJECT: FSP - Maine - Request to Waive Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act,
as Amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work
Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

TO: Frances E. Zorn, Regional Administrator
Food and Consumer Service
Northeast Region

This is in response to the Maine State Agency's request to amend waiver 970315 to exempt individuals residing in the towns of Augusta, Gardiner and Hallowell of the Augusta LMA from the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents under Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).

The State agency has provided data which indicates an average unemployment rate for the 24-month period beginning June 1995 and ending May 1997 which is 20 percent above the national average for each of the towns of Augusta, Gardiner and Hallowell. Therefore, we are amending waiver 970315 to exempt individuals residing in these three towns from the work requirement provisions of Section 824 of the PRWORA.

If you have any questions, please contact James A. Walsh of my staff at 703-305-2531.

Bonny O'Neil
Acting Deputy Administrator
Food Stamp Program

cc: Joseph Pinto, John Knaus, Retha Oliver, Joe Shea, Maurice Tracy, All Regions
(except NERO), Civil Rights, CPB (circulate), OAE - Bob Dalrymple

FCS:FSP:PDD:CPB:JWALSH:FINAL:9/9/97:va
FC: ABAWDS
DIR: 970315.ME2