

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Date: 5/30/2017

(Filing No. S-156)

Majority

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 486, L.D. 1408, Bill, "An Act To Establish an Independent Citizens Oversight Committee on Maine's Welfare Programs"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3109 is enacted to read:

§3109. Promoting accountable public programs that reduce child poverty and increase sustainable employment for low-income families with children

The department shall implement a system of accountability to measure the performance of certain programs administered by the department under this subtitle by examining the outcomes of participating families with children on an annual basis. The department shall establish benchmarks to measure, over time, the extent to which these programs have helped to alleviate poverty and hardship among families with children through increased employment, earnings, education and training and the provision of individualized services for those with barriers to employment.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Federal poverty level" has the same meaning as in section 3762, subsection 1, paragraph C.

B. "TANF" has the same meaning as in section 3762, subsection 1, paragraph E.

2. Identify measures of child and family economic security. Beginning October 15, 2017 and annually thereafter, the department shall obtain and compile the following data for the State on an annual basis from those sources reasonably available to the department, including data collected and maintained by the department, data available from other state or federal agencies and such other data as can reasonably be obtained from other public or private sources upon request. The data must include:

A. The number and percentage of children living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level;

R. of S.

- 1 B. The number and percentage of households headed by single parents with related
- 2 children living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level;
- 3 C. The number and percentage of children living at or below 50% of the federal
- 4 poverty level;
- 5 D. The ratio of families with children receiving TANF cash assistance to the number
- 6 of families with children and income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level;
- 7 E. The ratio of families with children receiving TANF cash assistance to the number
- 8 of families with children and income at or below 50% of the federal poverty level;
- 9 F. The number and percentage of households with children who are homeless;
- 10 G. The number and percentage of individuals and children found to be food insecure
- 11 by the United States Department of Agriculture;
- 12 H. The number and percentage of individuals and children found to have very low
- 13 food security by the United States Department of Agriculture;
- 14 I. For all families that exit TANF cash assistance:
 - 15 (1) The number and percentage of families with earnings in the month of TANF
 - 16 exit and the number and percentage of exiting families with earnings that are
 - 17 below 100%, at least 100% but not more than 150%, at least 151% but not more
 - 18 than 200% and in excess of 200% of the federal poverty level;
 - 19 (2) The number and percentage of families with earnings in excess of \$5,000 per
 - 20 quarter in the 2nd quarter and in the 4th quarter after the quarter of exit from
 - 21 TANF; and
 - 22 (3) The mean and median amount of earnings for families in the 2nd quarter and
 - 23 in the 4th quarter after the quarter of exit from TANF;
- 24 J. Median and mean wages for families with earnings that have children in the
- 25 household and receive food supplement benefits pursuant to section 3104;
- 26 K. The number and percentage of adult parents or caretaker relatives receiving
- 27 TANF cash assistance that have a high school degree or have successfully completed
- 28 a general educational development examination or its equivalent, and the number and
- 29 percentage of those adult parents or caretaker relatives that left TANF in the prior
- 30 year that have a high school degree or have successfully completed a general
- 31 educational development examination or its equivalent; and
- 32 L. The number and percentage of adult parents or caretaker relatives receiving
- 33 TANF cash assistance that have a postsecondary degree or a postsecondary credential
- 34 and the number and percentage of those adult parents or caretaker relatives that left
- 35 TANF in the prior year that have a postsecondary degree or postsecondary credential.
- 36 **3. Benchmarks established.** The department shall examine and use the data related
- 37 to measures of child and family economic security and employment compiled pursuant to
- 38 subsection 2 to establish proposed benchmarks on an annual basis to serve as a standard
- 39 against which progress related to improvements in the well-being of families with
- 40 children in the State may be measured. Beginning January 15, 2018 and annually

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

S.

1 thereafter, the department shall present proposed benchmarks to the joint standing
2 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human services matters along with
3 data compiled pursuant to subsection 2 for the current year and comparative data for the 3
4 prior years for the committee's review. The committee's review must include the
5 opportunity for public comment on the department's proposed benchmarks. After the
6 committee's review and by March 15th annually, the department shall finalize
7 benchmarks for the following year.

8 **4. Report.** By January 15, 2019 and annually thereafter, the department shall report
9 on its progress in meeting benchmarks established for the preceding year, along with
10 proposed benchmarks for the subsequent year, to the joint standing committee of the
11 Legislature having jurisdiction over human services matters. If the department does not
12 successfully meet the benchmarks established for the preceding year, it shall identify
13 those obstacles that prevented it from meeting the benchmarks and present a plan for
14 addressing the obstacles so that the department will be more successful in meeting the
15 new benchmarks proposed for the following year. The department's plan must be
16 reviewed by both the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee established pursuant to
17 section 3110 and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
18 human services matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having
19 jurisdiction over human services matters may introduce any legislation that it considers
20 necessary to improve the department's ability to meet benchmarks in future years.'

21 Amend the bill in section 3 in §3110 in the first paragraph in the 3rd line (page 3, line
22 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "goals as described in section 3109, subsection
23 4" and inserting the following: 'those benchmarks as described in section 3109,
24 subsection 3'

25 Amend the bill in section 3 in §3110 in the first paragraph in the last line (page 3, line
26 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "and goals"

27 Amend the bill in section 3 in §3110 in subsection 2 in the 3rd line (page 3, line 18 in
28 L.D.) by striking out the following: "and goals"

29 Amend the bill in section 3 in §3110 in subsection 5 in the last 2 lines (page 4, lines 9
30 and 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "and goals established in section 3109,
31 subsection 4" and inserting the following: 'established in section 3109, subsection 3'

32 Amend the bill by adding after section 3 the following:

33 '**Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
34 allocations are made.

35 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

36 **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138**

37 Initiative: Provides an allocation for one Statistician III position needed to accumulate
38 and analyze data and performance measures in the Temporary Assistance for Needy
39 Families program.

R. of S.

1	FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2017-18	2018-19
2	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
3	Personal Services	\$71,834	\$73,818
4	All Other	\$8,926	\$8,994
5			
6	FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$80,760	\$82,812
7			

8

SUMMARY

9 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, makes minor
 10 changes to the data and benchmarks that must be collected by the Department of Health
 11 and Human Services and reviewed by the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee,
 12 which is established in the bill.

13 This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section to provide
 14 funding for a position in the Department of Health and Human Services to analyze the
 15 data.

16

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

17

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1408

LR 1569(02)

An Act To Establish an Independent Citizens Oversight Committee on Maine's Welfare Programs

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-156)
 Committee: Health and Human Services
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
Appropriations/Allocations				
Federal Block Grant Fund	\$80,760	\$82,812	\$84,731	\$86,847
Revenue				
Federal Block Grant Fund	\$80,760	\$82,812	\$84,731	\$86,847

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes Federal Block Grant Fund allocations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$80,760 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$82,812 in fiscal year 2018-19 for one Statistician III position needed to accumulate and analyze data and performance measures in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.