

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1
2 Date:

6/14/19

L.D. 1772

(Filing No. H-606)

3 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5 STATE OF MAINE
6 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7 129TH LEGISLATURE
8 FIRST REGULAR SESSION

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1259, L.D. 1772, Bill, "An Act To
10 Secure Transitions to Economic Prosperity for Maine Families and Children"

11 Amend the bill in section 1 in paragraph B in subparagraph (6) in the 3rd line (page
12 2, line 10 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "income" the following: "excluding
13 any income disregarded pursuant to subparagraph (7-D), divisions (a) and (b)"

14 Amend the bill in section 1 in paragraph B by striking out all of subparagraphs (7-D)
15 and (7-E) and inserting the following:

16 '(7-D) In determining benefit levels, the department shall disregard the following
17 amounts from the monthly earnings of recipients:

18 (a) One hundred percent of all earned income for the first 3 months of
19 employment. Any month in which the disregard under this division does not
20 increase the recipient's benefit above that which it would be if the disregard
21 in division (c) is applied does not count as a month in which earned income is
22 disregarded under this division;

23 (b) Seventy-five percent of all earned income for the 4th to 6th months of
24 employment. Any month in which the disregard under this division does not
25 increase the recipient's benefit above that which it would be if the disregard
26 in division (c) is applied does not count as a month in which earned income is
27 disregarded under this division;

28 (c) One hundred and eight dollars and 50% of the remaining earnings that
29 are less than the federal poverty level for any month of employment in which
30 a disregard in division (a) or (b) is not applied; and

31 (d) All actual child care costs necessary for work, except that the department
32 may limit the child care disregard to \$175 per month per child or \$200 per
33 month per child under 2 years of age or with special needs;

34 (7-E) For any period during which a household's food supplement assistance is
35 reduced as a result of earnings and receipt of the earned income disregard applied

R. & S.

1 under subparagraph (7-D), division (a) or (b), the household must receive
2 additional food supplement assistance in an amount that will, in addition to the
3 food supplement assistance for which the household remains eligible, provide the
4 household with a minimum of \$50 in food supplement assistance. Additional
5 food supplement assistance under this subparagraph is a noncash benefit and may
6 be used to purchase only those food items permitted under the food supplement
7 program.'

8 Amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 18 by striking out all of the last sentence
9 (page 4, lines 35 to 38 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

10 'The department shall grant an extension to a household for each month in which a family
11 received TANF assistance and an earnings disregard under subsection 3, paragraph B,
12 subparagraph (7-D), division (a) or (b). This extension does not apply to a TANF
13 recipient who has reached the 60-month time limit prior to October 1, 2019.'

14 Amend the bill in section 4 in §3769-G in subsection 1 in the 2nd line (page 5, line 4
15 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$3,000,000" and inserting the following:
16 '\$2,000,000'

17 Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 5 and 6 and inserting the following:

18 **'Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3788, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:**

19 **7-A. Basic skills education.** The department shall make available to individuals
20 participating in the ASPIRE-TANF program basic skills education, including programs
21 that assist individuals in obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent or comparable
22 credential. The time spent by an ASPIRE-TANF participant in basic skills education
23 must be counted toward the first 20 hours of the participant's required weekly work
24 participation, except that this subsection is suspended for any period for which it would
25 cause the State to fail to meet the work participation rate requirements pursuant to 42
26 United States Code, Section 607, subsection (a). The department shall ensure that the
27 State's work verification plan required under federal law for validating work participation
28 activities of ASPIRE-TANF participants includes basic skills education in the definition
29 of vocational educational training when it is a necessary part of a participant's vocational
30 educational training plan.

31 **Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made.

33 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

34 **Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment 0146**

35 Initiative: Provides allocations for additional support services for the new population
36 added due to the changes in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 37 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
| 38 | All Other | \$3,217,548 | \$4,290,064 |
| 39 | | | |
| 40 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL | \$3,217,548 | \$4,290,064 |

A. G. S.

1 **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138**
 2 Initiative: Provides allocations for community action agencies to expand the services to
 3 assist parents to find stable employment.

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 4 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
| 5 | All Other | \$1,500,000 | \$2,000,000 |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL | <u>\$1,500,000</u> | <u>\$2,000,000</u> |

8 **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138**
 9 Initiative: Provides allocations to change the income disregard and to no longer count
 10 earnings disregards against the 60-month limit in the Temporary Assistance for Needy
 11 Families program.

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 12 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
| 13 | All Other | \$3,166,293 | \$4,221,724 |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL | <u>\$3,166,293</u> | <u>\$4,221,724</u> |

16 **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138**
 17 Initiative: Provides deallocations to account for the reduction in transitional benefits due
 18 to changes in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 19 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
| 20 | All Other | (\$3,311,876) | (\$4,415,834) |
| 21 | | | |
| 22 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL | <u>(\$3,311,876)</u> | <u>(\$4,415,834)</u> |

23 **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138**
 24 Initiative: Provides allocations to replace Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 25 benefits due to increased income disregard in the Temporary Assistance for Needy
 26 Families program.

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 27 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
| 28 | All Other | \$249,075 | \$332,100 |
| 29 | | | |
| 30 | FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL | <u>\$249,075</u> | <u>\$332,100</u> |

H. 889

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**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | \$4,821,040 | \$6,428,054 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$4,821,040 | \$6,428,054 |

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It clarifies that employment earnings in the months when earnings are subject to disregards do not affect special housing allowances.

2. It reduces the number of months that the Department of Health and Human Services disregards the earnings of a recipient of temporary assistance for needy families, or TANF, benefits and removes the requirement that the earnings be continuous for more than 2 months to be counted.

3. It stipulates that a month in which earnings are insufficient to change a benefit amount is not counted as a month in which earnings are disregarded.

4. It changes the requirement for food supplement assistance for a TANF recipient to be the same amount as prior to employment to a minimum of \$50 in food supplement assistance.

5. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to approve an extension from the 60-month limit for TANF recipients who have employment earnings that are subject to disregards rather than not counting those months in the 60-month limit.

6. It changes the amount of TANF block grant funds that can be used for initiatives in the bill from \$3,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

7. It corrects the language for basic skills education to refer to a high school diploma or equivalent or comparable credential. It also states that basic skills education counting as work participation requirements may be suspended if the State no longer meets the work participation rates required by the Federal Government.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1772

LR 1112(02)

An Act To Secure Transitions to Economic Prosperity for Maine Families and Children

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-606)*
Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

| | FY 2019-20 | FY 2020-21 | Projections FY 2021-22 | Projections FY 2022-23 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | |
| Federal Block Grant Fund | \$4,821,040 | \$6,428,054 | \$6,428,054 | \$6,428,054 |
| Revenue | | | | |
| Federal Block Grant Fund | \$4,821,040 | \$6,428,054 | \$6,428,054 | \$6,428,054 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes Federal Block Grant Fund allocations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$4,821,040 in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$6,428,054 in fiscal year 2020-21 for expected additional participants in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment programs and for community action agencies to expand services to assist parents to find stable employment.