

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 85

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H.P. 49

House of Representatives, January 8, 2025

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### **An Act to Revitalize the Maine Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Advisory Council**

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Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Received by the Clerk of the House on January 6, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§36-C**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 530, Pt. A, §2,  
3 is amended to read:

4 **36-C.**

5 Human	<u>Maine Temporary Assistance</u>	<u>Not Authorized</u>	22 MRSA
6 Services	<u>for Needy Families Advisory</u>	<u>Expenses/Legislative</u>	§3789-D
7	<u>Council</u>	<u>Per Diem for</u>	
8		<u>Nonsalaried Employee</u>	
9		<u>Members</u>	

10 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3789-D**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 110, §7, is further amended  
11 to read:

12 **§3789-D. Maine Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Advisory Council**

13 **1. Duties.** The Maine Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Advisory Council,  
14 as referred to in this section as "the council," is established by Title 5, section 12004-I,  
15 subsection 36-C, ~~shall to~~ advise the commissioner or the commissioner's designee  
16 regarding education, training, job opportunities, quality employment and business  
17 ownership opportunities, the operation of any postsecondary education programs  
18 administered by the department and other matters affecting recipients of TANF ~~recipients~~  
19 cash and other TANF recipients.

20 **2. Members.** The commissioner shall appoint the members of the council. Members  
21 who fail to attend 2 meetings within a 12-month period may be removed from the council.  
22 Members must include at least the following:

- 23 A. Two recipients of benefits under the TANF program;
- 24 B. One representative of employers within the State;
- 25 C. One representative of organized labor;
- 26 D. One representative of women's interests;
- 27 E. One or more representatives of organizations or agencies that have experience in  
28 addressing the training, education and job needs of low-income women;
- 29 F. One representative of the one-stop delivery system established under the federal  
30 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 United States Code, Section 3151; and
- 31 G. Two representatives of postsecondary education, one representing private  
32 institutions and one representing public institutions.

33 ~~**3. Advice regarding postsecondary education programs.** The council shall~~  
34 ~~establish a postsecondary education subcommittee, consisting of up to 15 members and~~  
35 ~~nonmembers of the council. The subcommittee must include but is not limited to the~~  
36 ~~following representatives:~~

- 37 ~~A. A representative of the department, appointed by the commissioner;~~
- 38 ~~B. A representative of the University of Maine System who represents the interests of~~  
39 ~~women or nontraditional students at one of the campuses, appointed by the chancellor;~~

1 C. A representative of the Finance Authority of Maine appointed by the chief executive  
2 officer;

3 D. Representatives of the Maine Community College System, including a gender  
4 coordinator at one of the campuses, appointed by the president; and

5 E. Representatives of the following groups, appointed by the council:

6 (1) Nonprofit service organizations that assist parents who are nontraditional  
7 students;

8 (2) TANF participants or participants of the Parents as Scholars Program  
9 established in chapter 1054-B who are enrolled in postsecondary education  
10 programs;

11 (3) Nonprofit organizations that prepare parents to be nontraditional  
12 postsecondary education students;

13 (4) Organizations that represent low income parents and that have significant  
14 knowledge of public assistance programs;

15 (5) Organizations that advocate for the interests of women;

16 (6) The business community; and

17 (7) Private postsecondary educational institutions.

18 By March 1, 1998, the subcommittee shall make recommendations to the council for  
19 improving the administration of the Parents as Scholars Program under section 3790,  
20 improving the program to make it more successful for participants and maximizing  
21 resources to meet the goals of the program. The council shall approve, disapprove or  
22 modify the recommendations of the subcommittee and report their recommendation to the  
23 commissioner.

24 **4. Compensation and expenses.** A member of the council who is not otherwise  
25 compensated for the member's time serving on the council by the member's employer or  
26 the entity the member represents may be compensated in an amount not to exceed the  
27 legislative per diem for the member's time and reimbursed for expenses, including but not  
28 limited to meals and refreshments provided during a meeting of the council, child care and  
29 travel.

## 30 SUMMARY

31 This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the Maine Temporary  
32 Assistance for Needy Families Advisory Council.

33 1. It changes the matters on which the council provides advice to clarify matters  
34 affecting recipients of TANF cash and other TANF recipients.

35 2. It allows for the removal from the council of a member who fails to attend 2 meetings  
36 within a 12-month period.

37 3. It removes the provision requiring the establishment of a postsecondary education  
38 subcommittee.

39 4. It authorizes compensation, in the amount of the legislative per diem, and  
40 reimbursement for expenses for a member who is not otherwise compensated for the

1 member's time serving on the council by the member's employer or the entity the member  
2 represents.