

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 834

Date: 6/10/25

(Filing No. S-336)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 366, L.D. 834, "An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3271, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §65, is further amended to read:

2. The department, to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder, shall establish standard levels of state supplemental income benefits for blind, disabled and elderly people. The benefits must be provided under a modified flat benefit system, and may vary by marital status, and by living arrangements to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder. The benefits may not be based on individual budgeted need and may not vary by category or geographical area. Benefits for a couple, except as provided under section 3273, subsection 1, paragraph B, must be equal to the sum of the amount of benefit for an each individual and 50% of the benefit for an individual in the couple.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3272, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

1. **Standard.** The standard utilized to determine need ~~shall~~ must be the current annual budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual as most recently determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or budgets ~~which that~~ that are consistent with such a budget at the lower level of living, taking into account budget variances by ~~marital status and living arrangements permitted~~ permitted pursuant to Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1985, c. 770, §3, is further amended to read:

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1 **1. Combined benefits.** The department shall take action, as necessary, to ~~assure~~
2 ensure that, within the limits of available funds, a state supplemental income benefit, when
3 combined with a federal supplemental security income benefit, ~~shall consist~~ consists of
4 such amounts that the sum ~~shall~~ must:

5 A. Increase the minimum monthly federal payment standard, in addition to that
6 established pursuant to federal law, by an amount of at least \$8 \$65 per month for an
7 individual ~~and \$12 per month for a couple~~;

8 B. For an individual who resides in an adult foster home or boarding home, having a
9 contract with the department for the provision of services to eligible residents, or
10 nursing home, as defined in section 1812-A, in addition to the benefits provided ~~herein~~
11 under paragraphs A and C, provide sufficient income to allow the individual for
12 personal needs an amount equal to at least \$30 a month, plus an amount sufficient to
13 meet the monthly per resident payment rate as established by the department of the
14 adult foster home or boarding home in which the individual resides; and

15 C. For a beneficiary who resides in a living arrangement ~~which~~ that meets a living
16 arrangement classification established by the department, but who does not reside in
17 an adult foster home or boarding home, in addition to the minimum federal payment
18 level as adjusted pursuant to paragraph A, provide, based on such living arrangement
19 classification, an amount not to exceed \$42 per month for an individual ~~and \$63 per~~
20 ~~month for a couple~~.

21 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§6, ¶B-1**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 528, Pt. E, §25
22 and affected by Pt. RRR and enacted by c. 591, Pt. E, §25, is amended to read:

23 B-1. On July 1st of every year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state
24 supplemental income benefit authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the
25 amount of the minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that
26 time must be increased by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the
27 United States Consumer Price Index for April 1st of that year over the level of the
28 Index for April 1st of the previous year plus any additional percentage amount as is
29 recommended annually by the department. Such an increase may be made only insofar
30 as appropriations are available. In determining the additional percentage amount,
31 consideration must be given to the goal of reaching, within a reasonable time, a benefit
32 level equal to or consistent with the current budget at the lower level of living for a
33 retired couple an individual established by the United States Department of Labor,
34 Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine.

35 If, on April 1st of any year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state supplemental
36 payment authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the amount of the
37 minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that time, is equal
38 to or exceeds the amount resulting from 12 divided into the current annual budget at
39 the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual as most recently established
40 by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland,
41 Maine, or taking into account variances by ~~marital status~~ and living arrangements as
42 established by the department, a budget that is not inconsistent with that annual budget
43 divided by 12, the increase provided on July 1st next following is limited to the
44 percentage rise in the Consumer Price Index.

45 ~~This paragraph takes effect July 1, 1993.~~

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State Supplement to Federal Supplemental Security Income 0131

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the minimum state supplemental income benefit for recipients of federal supplemental security income from \$8 per month to \$65 per month for an individual and to increase the combined state supplemental benefit for a couple, each of whom qualify for the benefit, from 150% to 200% of the benefit for an individual.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$23,135,664	\$23,135,664
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$23,135,664	\$23,135,664

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

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This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment does the following.

1. It replaces provisions of law that currently provide that payments to couples, both of whom receive the supplement, are 150% of the benefit for an individual with provisions of law providing that payments to the couples are 200% of the benefit for an individual.

2. It requires that the standard used to determine need is the current annual budget at the lower level of living for an individual as most recently determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or budgets consistent with such a budget taking into account budget variances by living arrangements permitted pursuant to Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act.

3. It establishes that, in determining any increase according to the United States Consumer Price Index, consideration must be given to the goal of reaching, within a reasonable time, a benefit level equal to or consistent with the current budget at the lower level of living for an individual, rather than a retired couple, established by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine.

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(See attached)

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 834****LR 1494(02)****An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (5-336)****Committee: Health and Human Services****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$23,135,664	\$23,135,664	\$23,165,664	\$23,135,664
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$23,135,664	\$23,135,664	\$23,165,664	\$23,135,664

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes ongoing annual General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$23,135,664 beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 to increase the minimum benefit provided under the state supplement to federal supplemental security income program from \$8 per month to \$65 per month for an individual and to increase the combined benefit for a couple, each of whom qualify for the benefit, from 150% to 200% of the individual benefit amount.