

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Title)
New Draft of: H. P. 342, L. D. 451

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1672

H. P. 1271

House of Representatives, April 15, 1971

Reported by Mrs. Doyle from Committee on Health and Institutional Services and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to the Administration of Welfare Programs.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, § 3301, repealed. Section 3301 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 503 of the public laws of 1965, is repealed.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 22, § 3301-A, additional. Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section, 3301-A, to read as follows:

§ 3301-A. Aid to families with dependent children, aid to the aged, blind and disabled, aid to the medically indigent and other state funded welfare programs

The department is authorized to administer programs of aid to families with dependent children, aid to the aged, blind and disabled, aid to the medically indigent and such other welfare programs as may be funded by the State.

The department is authorized to:

1. **Make rules and regulations.** Make the necessary rules and regulations to administer programs of aid to families with dependent children, aid to the aged, blind and disabled, aid to the medically indigent and such other welfare programs as may be funded by the State.

2. **Apply for federal funds.** Apply for such federal funds as may be available for aid to families with dependent children, aid to the aged, blind and

disabled, aid to the medically indigent and such other welfare programs as may be funded by the State, and the administration thereof.

The Treasurer of State shall be the appropriate fiscal officer of the State to receive federal funds on account of aid to families with dependent children, aid to the aged, blind and disabled, aid to the medically indigent and such other welfare programs as may be funded by the State, and the State Controller shall authorize expenditures therefrom as approved by the department.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 22, § 3302, repealed. Section 3302 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 160 of the public laws of 1969, is repealed.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 22, § 3303, amended. The first sentence of section 3303 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

The receipt of any aid to the aged, blind or disabled under section 3301-A shall not pauperize the recipient thereof, and the receipt of general assistance by such recipient shall not be considered to be pauper support.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 22, § 3303, amended. The last sentence of section 3303 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is repealed as follows:

~~Medical or remedial care and services for the medically indigent provided for any person under chapters 951 to 959 shall not be considered as pauper supplies as defined by section 4452~~

Sec. 6. Repealing clause. Sections 3351, 3353, 3401 to 3404 as amended, 3405, 3406, 3410 as amended, 3452 as amended, 3741 as amended, 3751 as amended, 3752 and 3753, all of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes, are repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act provides a general enabling act for the operation of all public assistance programs and the programs of medical care for the medically indigent. It repeals a series of specific sections in the statutes but does not in and of itself make any major change in the programs by such repeals. A broadly worded Act is desirable, for it enables the department to make advantageous adaptations in federal-state programs without the necessity for repeated legislative action on required small changes in Maine statutes. With the impending possibility of congressional enactment of some type of welfare reform either in the form of a federally financed income maintenance program or in some other equally sweeping change from the present programs, as here proposed would be expected to enable the Department of Health and Welfare to take advantage of any more favorable federal support.