

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 349

H. P. 292

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

On motion of Ms. Goodwin of Bath, referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Ms. Goodwin of Bath.

Cosponsors:

Mr. Morton of Farmington

Mr. Curran of So. Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Amend the State Supplemental Income for Blind, Disabled and Elderly People to Insure the Automatic Pass-along of Federal Supplemental Security Income Cost of Living Increases.

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

22 MRSA § 3273, sub-§ 6, ¶ C is enacted to read:

C. It is the intent of the Legislature that any increases in the federal supplemental security income benefit levels, effective the same month as the federal increase takes effect, shall be passed along in the same total dollar amount of any such increase to each beneficiary in the optional program and to each beneficiary in the mandatory program.

When the federal cost of living increases go into effect, the Department of Human Services shall immediately take action necessary to raise the state ceiling for an individual and for a couple in the same total dollar amount as the federal supplemental security income increase. Such pass-along of a federal benefit increase shall not be made to individuals in foster homes or boarding homes. In the event that funds are available and without limiting the pass-alongs outlined herein, the department may, in its discretion, provide for increased payment rates to foster homes and boarding homes.

Any unexpended balance of this account shall not be transferred to another account and shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward in the same account from year to year to be expended for the same purpose.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will insure that any cost of living increases to supplemental security income recipients shall be automatically passed along with each increase. This bill will serve to increase supplemental security income benefits to eligible individuals. Because this bill will pass along federal increases, no cost will be incurred by the State.