

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1342

H. P. 1124

House of Representatives, March 29, 1977

Referred to Committee on Performance Audit. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Require an Annual Adjustment in the Standards of Need for  
Families Receiving Aid to Dependent Children.**

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

22 MRSA § 3759 is enacted to read:

§ 3759. Standard of need

1. Adjustments in standard of need. On the date this section becomes effective, and on July 1st of each year thereafter, the department shall adjust the standard of need for families receiving aid to dependent children to equal the most recent lower budget level for families of varying sizes as computed for Portland, Maine, by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2. Payments. In carrying out the intent of sub-section 1, no family receiving aid to dependent children shall receive a payment less than the amount it received or would have received effective October 1, 1976.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to adjust annually the standard of need for families receiving aid to dependent children. This annual adjustment will result in a more accurate reflection of the gap between the dollar amount AFDC clients actually receive and the dollar amount they need to live in minimum decency and health.

In addition, the bill provides that the AFDC payment levels in effect on October 1, 1976, cannot be reduced without legislative approval.