

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1475

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H. P. 1230

House of Representatives, April 7, 1977

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick, Reconsidered Reference and on Further Motion of the same gentleman, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Najarian of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Expand the Availability of Certain Social Services by  
Increasing Income Eligibility.**

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

22 MRSA § 9, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 470, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 9. Fees for services

1. Reasonable fees. The Department of Human Services is authorized to charge reasonable fees for any services provided under this Title if, in the opinion of the commissioner, the recipient of such services has sufficient resources to pay for the same. Any fees thus received shall be used to defray the expenses of the services charged for and shall proportionately reduce the service unit cost reimbursement to the agency by the Department of Human Services. Funds so generated shall be used for additional services and shall be used for the same social services for which the fees were paid. The services provided to recipients whose income is between 80 and 115% of the state's median income shall not exceed 20% of the service units provided in each category of service.

2. Sliding fee scale. The department is authorized to provide mental health, mental retardation, family planning, alcohol treatment, campership, foster care, group care and homemaker services under Title XX of the Social Security Act to individuals and families whose adjusted gross income is below 80% of median and between 80 and 115% of the median personal income

for residents of the State. The commissioner shall, by regulation, establish a sliding fee scale of payment for these services based on the ability to pay. In establishing such sliding fee scale, the commissioner shall take into account gross family income, family size and indebtedness.

3. Child day care services. In addition to providing services to families whose income falls below 80% of median, the department shall provide child day care services to individuals and families whose adjusted gross income is between 80 and 115% of the median personal income for residents of the State. The median income figure used as a basis of determining eligibility by the department shall be reviewed at least annually and shall be adjusted to reflect the official median income figure for Maine as promulgated by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

4. Consultation; public hearings. Prior to implementation of fee scales for services listed in this section, the department shall consult with the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services and shall be required to hold public hearings, duly advertised in the media, prior to adoption of fee scales.

5. Fee scale for child day care:

		FEE SCALE						
		Number in Family						
		2	3	4	5	6	7	Fee
		60% Median						
WEEKLY INCOME	\$101-106	125-131	149-158	173-183	197-209	201-213		\$ 0
	\$107-112	132-140	159-168	184-194	210-222	214-226		\$ 2
	\$113-119	141-149	169-178	195-205	223-235	227-240		\$ 4
	\$120-127	150-158	179-188	206-217	236-248	241-254		\$ 6
		80% Median						
	\$128-135	159-167	189-199	218-230	249-262	255-268		\$ 8
	\$136-142	168-177	200-211	231-244	263-278	269-284		\$10
	\$143-149	178-187	212-223	245-258	279-295	285-300		\$13
	\$150-157	188-198	224-236	259-273	296-312	301-317		\$16
		100% Median						
	\$158-169	199-209	237-249	274-289	313-329	318-336		\$19
	\$170-178	210-219	250-260	290-303	330-344	337-352		\$23
	\$179-187	220-229	261-273	304-317	345-361	353-369		\$27
		115% Median						
	\$188-195	230-240	274-286	318-332	362-378	370-386		\$32

Based on Guidelines October 1, 1977

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Federal Social Security Act, Title XX, law and regulations allow the states to serve persons with incomes below 115% of the state's median income. This

bill will require the Department of Human Services to provide child day care services to families, presently ineligible by state regulations, whose income is between 80% and 115% of median. A sliding fee scale will be required which will proportionately reduce state per unit costs of the services by having the recipient pay a portion of the cost.

The intent of this bill is to allow supportive social and health services to those families whose income currently exceeds state regulation. This bill also authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide up to 20% of contracted social services under Title XX to individuals and families whose adjusted gross income is between 80 and 115% of median income. Finally, the bill requires the department to consult with the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services before promulgating fee scales for services covered by Title XX social services.