

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1842

7 S.P. 652

In Senate, January 4, 1984

8 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.  
9 Ordered printed and sent down for concurrence.

10 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint  
Rule 26.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Conley of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Kelleher of Bangor and Senator Brown of  
Washington.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR  
16

17 AN ACT to Require that the Aid to Families  
18 with Dependent Children Program Promote Family  
19 Unity.  
20

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

23 22 MRSA §3741, as repealed and replaced by PL  
24 1967, c. 459, §1, is amended to read:

25 §3741. Aid to dependent children

26 The department ~~is authorized to~~ may administer  
27 and operate a program of aid to dependent children  
28 within the ~~Federal~~ United States Social Security Act  
29 and any amendments and additions thereto. The depart-  
30 ment shall also implement and operate a program of  
31 aid to the dependent children of intact families with  
32 unemployed parents in accordance with the United  
33 States Code, Title 42, Section 607, as amended.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill is required to enable intact families  
3 with children, in which one or both of the parents  
4 are unemployed, to receive benefits from the Aid to  
5 Families with Dependent Children Program. These fami-  
6 lies would be required to meet all of the eligibility  
7 requirements of the present Aid to Families with De-  
8 pendent Children Program, including income and re-  
9 source limitations and work registration. The present  
10 Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program pro-  
11 vides benefits only to single-parent families, with  
12 the limited exception of families in which there is a  
13 disabled parent. The effect of this present limita-  
14 tion is to cause families to break up when a parent  
15 becomes unemployed in order to assure a minimum level  
16 of subsistence for their children.

17 This program permits families to stay together  
18 while receiving the minimum level of subsistence and  
19 Medicaid coverage that Aid to Families with Dependent  
20 Children provides. This extension of the Aid to Fami-  
21 lies with Dependent Children Program, like the Aid to  
22 Families with Dependent Children Program itself, is  
23 70% funded by the Federal Government.

24 The existence of nearly 40,000 unemployed in  
25 Maine supports the urgency of this measure. For many  
26 of these families, separation is the only solution  
27 for providing even marginal economic security for  
28 their children. This consequence is clearly contrary  
29 to public policy and could be avoided by adoption of  
30 this bill.

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