

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1369

S.P. 495

In Senate, April 26, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, Representative OLIVER of Portland and Representative BURKE of Vassalboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act to Increase the Standard of Need for Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

(EMERGENCY)



1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
3 as emergencies; and

4 Whereas, the maximum payment to Aid to Families with
5 Dependent Children families in Maine is equal to only 1/2 of the
6 poverty level; and

7 Whereas, eligible Aid to Families with Dependent Children
8 families are only able to earn income which, in addition to
9 program benefits, brings their income to just over 2/3 of the
10 poverty level; and

11 Whereas, many Aid to Families with Dependent Children
12 families are unable to purchase even the basic necessities of
13 food, clothing and shelter because of their inadequate income; and

14 Whereas, this creates great hardship and anxiety for these
15 families and significant cost to municipal general assistance
16 programs which must assist them; and

17 Whereas, the newly enacted federal Family Support Act now
18 requires states to reevaluate their Aid to Families with
19 Dependent Children need and payment standards; and

20 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature these facts
21 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
22 Maine and require the following legislation as necessary for the
23 preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
24 therefore,

25
26 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

27
28 **Sec. 1. Commission created.** The Commission to Evaluate the
29 Adequacy of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Need and
30 Payment Standards is created.

31
32 1. The commission shall consist of 13 members appointed in
33 the following manner: 2 Senators, and 2 members of the House of
34 Representatives one each from the Joint Standing Committee on
35 Human Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriation
36 and Financial Affairs, to be appointed by the President of the
37 Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively;
38 one representative of the Department of Human Services; one
39 representative of the Maine Municipal Association, to be
40 appointed by the Governor; one member of the Aid to Families
41 with Dependent Children Advisory Council; one representative of
42 licensed social workers; one representative of the academic
43 disciplines of social work, sociology, labor economics or other
44 relevant fields of study; one representative of private nonprofit
45 agency providing services to Aid to Families with Dependent
46 Children recipients; and 3 representatives of Aid to Families
47
48
49
50
51

1 with Dependent Children recipients to be appointed jointly by the
2 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives. All appointments shall be made within 30 days
4 of the effective date of this section. The commission members
5 shall select a chair at their first meeting.

7 2. The commission shall study the adequacy of the Aid to
8 Families with Dependent Children program's need and payment
9 standards to meet the cost of basic necessities for eligible
10 families. Specifically, the commission shall:

11 A. Determine an amount that represents the actual cost to
12 low-income families of purchasing basic necessities on a
13 monthly basis and specify the methodology by which that
14 determination has been made;

15 B. Examine the adequacy of the current Aid to Families with
16 Dependent Children need and payment standards to enable
17 eligible families to purchase these basic necessities; and

18 C. Recommend legislation which establishes a reasonable
19 method, taking maximum advantage of federal financial
20 participation, and a timetable for assuring that recipients
21 of Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits receive
22 sufficient income on an annual basis to meet their expenses
23 for basic necessities.

24 3. When the appointment of all commission members is
25 completed, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call the
26 first meeting by September 15, 1989.

27 4. The Department of Human Services shall assist with the
28 scheduling of meetings and provide the commission with staff and
29 access to information as appropriate and necessary to carry out
30 its charge.

31 5. The commission shall submit a report, together with any
32 necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session
33 of the 114th Legislature by February 15, 1990.

34 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
35 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

36

	1989-90	1990-91
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37

LEGISLATURE		
Commission to Evaluate the Adequacy		
of the Aid to Families with Dependent		
Children Need and Payment Standards		

38

1	All Other	\$3,000	\$3,000
3	LEGISLATURE		
	TOTAL	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>

5 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
7
9 **Aid to Families with Dependent Children**

11	All Other	\$2,721,108	\$5,941,086
13	Provides funds necessary to		
	increase the Aid to Families		
15	with Dependent Children		
	payment standard by 10% and		
17	the standard of need by 15%.		

19 **Medical Care - Payment to Providers**

21	All Other	\$420,000	\$840,000
23	Provides funds for increased		
	medical payments resulting		
25	from increases in the Aid to		
	Families with Dependent		
27	Children payment standard and		
	standard of need.		

29	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES		
31	TOTAL	<u>\$3,141,108</u>	<u>\$6,781,086</u>

33 **Sec. 3. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the
35 Federal Expenditure Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

37		1989-90	1990-91
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39 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
41 **Aid to Families with Dependent Children**

43	All Other	\$5,184,492	\$10,695,954
45	Allocates funds necessary to		
	increase the Aid to Families		
47	with Dependent Children		
	payment standard by 10% and		
49	the standard of need by 15%.		

51 **Medical Care - Payment to Providers**

1 All Other \$799,866 \$1,512,282
3
5 Allocates funds for increased
7 medical payments resulting
9 from increases in the Aid to
Families with Dependent
Children payment standard and
standard of need.

11 **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**
12 **TOTAL** \$5,984,358 \$12,208,236

13
14 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
15 preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

17
18 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

19
20
21 This bill provides a 10% increase in Aid to Families with
22 Dependent Children payments in each year of the biennium to
23 increase the ability of these families to purchase basic
24 necessities. It increases the standard of need by 15%. This
25 will permit working families to maintain program eligibility with
26 slightly more earned income and will increase the work incentive
27 in the program.

28
29 The bill responds to a requirement in the newly enacted
30 Federal Family Support Act by establishing a commission to study
31 the adequacy of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children need
32 and payment standards in meeting Aid to Families with Dependent
33 Children families' needs for basic necessities.