

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 842, L.D. 1208, Bill, "An Act to Provide that General Assistance Payments be Made in Vouchers and in Greater Compliance with General Assistance Laws"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting in their place the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4304, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1989, c. 699, is further amended to read:

1. Local office. There must be in each municipality a general assistance office or designated place where any person may apply for general assistance at regular, reasonable times designated by the municipal officers. Notice must be posted of these times, the name of the overseer available to take applications in an emergency at all other times, the fact that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24 hours and the department's toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations in accordance with section 4321.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4305, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 577, §1, is amended to read:

2. Availability of ordinance. Each The ordinance shall and a copy of this chapter must be available in the town office and ~~shall--otherwise~~ be easily accessible to any member of the public. Notice to that effect shall must be posted. A copy of this chapter must be distributed by the department to each municipality.'

Further amend the bill in section 3 in the amending clause (page 2, line 20 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "sub-§5" and inserting in its place the following: 'sub-§6'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 842, L.D. 1208

2 Further amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 5 in the
first line (page 2, line 22 in L.D.) by striking out the
following: "5." and inserting in its place the following: '6.'

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6 Further amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 5 by
striking out all of the last sentence (page 2, lines 26 to 28 in
L.D.).

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10 Further amend the bill by striking out all of sections 4 to
6.

12 Further amend the bill by renumbering the sections to read
consecutively.

14
16 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end after the
emergency clause and before the statement of fact the following:

18 **FISCAL NOTE**

20 The Department of Human Services can absorb the costs
associated with providing copies of the general assistance
22 statutes to municipalities within budgeted resources.'

24
26 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

28 This amendment:

30 1. Removes the bill's requirement that a specific notice be
32 posted in general assistance offices and adds the requirement
that the notices presently required include the fact that
municipalities must issue general assistance decisions within 24
34 hours;

36 2. Requires that copies of the general assistance laws be
provided to municipalities by the Department of Human Services;

38 3. Removes a provision in the bill that would have
40 prohibited municipalities from unreasonably restricting the
vendors from whom recipients receive goods;

42 4. Eliminates provisions in the bill related to municipal
44 compliance and penalties; and

46 5. Adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Reported by the Committee on Human Resources
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House
(5/2/91) (Filing No. H-220)