

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1496

DATE: June 26, 1995. (Filing No. S-337)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 548, L.D. 1496, Bill, "An Act to Improve the AFDC Program"

Amend the amendment by inserting after the title and before the first indented paragraph the following:

'Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

Whereas, there are a variety of proposals being considered in the United States Congress to set a time limit for Aid to Families with Dependent Children program recipients, but no specific action has been taken; and

Whereas, although a few states have requested and received waivers to establish time limits for Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits, no evaluations or impacts have yet been quantified; and

Whereas, Maine's Aid to Families with Dependent Children caseload dramatically increased in the late 1980's and early 1990's during the economic downturn and has remained relatively high during the economic recovery of the 1990's, little information has been evaluated in relationship between the program and the economic factors; and

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2 **Whereas**, while nationally many welfare reform plans have
4 been implemented, there is minimal information on the options
that provide the maximum amount of movement off welfare; and

6 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
8 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
10 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, '

12 Further amend the amendment in the first indented paragraph
14 after the title (page 1, line 22 in amendment) by striking out
the following: "Amend" and inserting in its place the
following: 'Further amend'

16 Further amend the amendment by inserting at the end before
18 the statement of fact the following:'

PART D

20 **Sec. 1. Commission established.** The Commission on the Economic
22 Impact of Time-limited Aid to Families with Dependent Children
Benefits referred to in this Part as the "commission," is
24 established.

26 **Sec. 2. Commission membership.** The commission consists of 9
members as follows:

- 28 1. Five members appointed by the Governor. The Governor
- 30 shall appoint one member from this group to serve as chair of the
- 32 commission;
- 34 2. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- 36 3. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- Representatives.

38 Appointments must be made within 30 days of the effective
40 date of this Part.

42 **Sec. 3. Duties.** The chair of the commission shall convene the
44 first meeting no later than December 1, 1995. The commission
shall study all issues related to Aid to Families with Dependent
Children time limits in the State, including, but not limited to:

- 46 1. Evaluation of other states' waivers and program design
- 48 on time-limited benefits and the impacts on the Aid to Families
- with Dependent Children population, other public and private
- 50 systems, the labor market and the states' economies;

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SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 548,
L.D. 1496

2 Provides funds for the travel of members and
for printing costs of the Commission on the
4 Economic Impact of Time-limited AFDC
Benefits.

6 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, Part D of this Act takes effect when approved.
8

10 **FISCAL NOTE**

12 **1995-96**

14 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

16 General Fund \$3,200

18 The amendment establishes the Commission on the Economic
20 Impact of Time-limited AFDC Benefits and provides a General Fund
appropriation of \$3,200 to the Legislature in fiscal year 1995-96
22 for the travel of commission members and for printing costs.

24 The additional costs to provide staffing assistance to the
commission can be absorbed by the Department of Human Services
26 utilizing existing budgeted resources.

28 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

30 This amendment establishes the Commission on the Economic
32 Impact of Time-limited Aid to Families with Dependent Children
Benefits to study issues related to establishing time limits and
34 requires the commission to report to the Joint Standing Committee
on Human Resources by February 1, 1996.

36
38 SPONSORED BY: Peter Mills
(Senator MILLS)

40 COUNTY: Somerset
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