

	L.D. 1496
2	DATE: June 26, 1995. (Filing No. 5-337)
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6	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.
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10	STATE OF MAINE SENATE 117TH LEGISLATURE
12	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
14	SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P.
16	548, L.D. 1496, Bill, "An Act to Improve the AFDC Program"
18	Amend the amendment by inserting after the title and before the first indented paragraph the following:
20	'Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the
22	enacting clause the following:
24	'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
26	as emergencies; and
28	Whereas, there are a variety of proposals being considered in the United States Congress to set a time limit for Aid to
30	Families with Dependent Children program recipients, but no specific action has been taken; and
32	Whereas, although a few states have requested and received
34	waivers to establish time limits for Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits, no evaluations or impacts have yet
36	been quantified; and
38	Whereas, Maine's Aid to Families with Dependent Children caseload dramatically increased in the late 1980's and early
40	1990's during the economic downturn and has remained relatively high during the economic recovery of the 1990's, little
42	information has been evaluated in relationship between the program and the economic factors; and
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SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 548, L.D. 1496

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Five members appointed by the Governor. The Governor
 shall appoint one member from this group to serve as chair of the commission;

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2. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate; and

3. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of 36 Representatives.

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

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Sec. 3. Duties. The chair of the commission shall convene the 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 on time-limited benefits and the impacts on the Aid to Families
48 with Dependent Children population, other public and private 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. Analysis of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children caseload in the State, by time, deprivation reasons and the issues that increase reliance on Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits such as, but not limited to, vocational dysfunction, labor market declines, health care systems, economic support networks such as unemployment compensation, child support enforcement, housing subsidy and workers' compensation; and

3. Research the impact on the State's economy if Aid to 10 Families with Dependent Children benefits were time-limited.

12 Sec. 4. Freedom of access; confidential information. Meetings of the commission are public meetings and records and papers of the commission are public records for the purposes of the freedom of access laws, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter I; except that information obtained about individual Aid to Families with Dependent Children cases will remain confidential in accordance with rules of the Department of Human Services.

Sec. 5. Staffing. The Department of Human Services shall provide staffing and may, within existing resources, obtain technical assistance by organizations with expertise in economics, business, job creation and welfare-to-work programs.

26 Sec. 6. Compensation; reimbursement. The members of the commission are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for 28 expenses related to attendance at meetings of the commission.

Sec. 7. Report. The commission shall submit its report and recommendations regarding time-limited Aid to Families with
 Dependent Children benefits to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources matters
 no later than February 1, 1996. The committee may submit legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 117th Legislature.

38 Sec. 8. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1995-96

LEGISLATURE

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46 Commission on the Economic Impact of Time-limited AFDC Benefits

48 All Other

\$3,200

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SENATE AMENDMENT " \mathcal{A} " to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 548, L.D. 1496

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

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

FISCAL NOTE

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1995-96

14 APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

16 General Fund

\$3,200

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

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

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

36 SPONSORED BY: 38 (Senator MILLS 40

COUNTY: Somerset

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