MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 445

H.P. 323

House of Representatives, January 23, 1997

An Act to Assist Low-income Working Parents.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator MICHAUD of Penobscot and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, ETNIER of Harpswell, KERR of Old Orchard Beach,
LOVETT of Scarborough, MARVIN of Cape Elizabeth, WINGLASS of Auburn, Senators:
PARADIS of Aroostook, PINGREE of Knox.

	be it enacted by the reopte of the State of Mame as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3760-J is enacted to read:
4	2000 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
	§3760-J. Disregard from monthly earnings
6	
	1. Calculation of disregard. In determining benefit levels
8	for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children who
	have earnings from employment, the department shall disregard
10	from monthly earnings the following:
12	A. One hundred fifty dollars;
14	B. Sixty percent of the remaining earnings that are less
	than the federal poverty guidelines; and
16	
	C. Except as provided in subsection 2, all actual child
18	care costs necessary for work.
20	2. Child care disregard. Notwithstanding subsection 1,
	paragraph C, the department may limit the child care disregard to
22	\$175 per month per child or \$200 per month per child under 2
	years of age or with special needs.
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	3. Calculation of monthly benefit. The monthly benefit is
26	the lower of:
2.0	, m. 1'55
28	A. The difference between the countable earnings and the
20	standard of need; or
30	B. The maximum payment level.
32	b. The maximum payment level.
32	Assistance provided under this subsection may not be paid for
34	with federal dollars provided under the United States Social
J T	Security Act, Title IV-A.
36	DOCKITET 1307 II CIO AV A.
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38	SUMMARY
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~*()	The purpose of this bill is to assist families in their transition from welfare to work. Currently, most families
42	receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children lose all cash
7.6	assistance shortly after they go to work while their earnings are
44	still well below the poverty level. This bill allows them to
~ *	continue to receive some amount of financial assistance until
46	their earnings are sufficient to meet their basic needs.