

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. of S.

L.D. 2118

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DATE: *March 9, 1998*

(Filing No. S-497)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 791, L.D. 2118, Bill, "An Act to Increase Economic Security for the State's Low-income Children and Families and Prevent Additional Costs to Municipalities"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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

Whereas, assistance under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program is insufficient for families to meet their basic needs; and

Whereas, action to increase the amount of monthly assistance payable to families is needed immediately so that families may eat, clothe, house and provide for themselves; and

Whereas, action is required to remedy this situation beginning July 1, 1998; 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,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3769-B is enacted to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 791, L.D. 2118

§3769-B. Assistance in meeting basic needs

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Beginning July 1, 1998, the department shall increase the maximum amount of TANF assistance by an amount equal to 5% of the maximum payments that were in effect on January 1, 1998 and shall increase the standard of need to maintain the same differential between the maximum payment and the standard of need that was in effect on January 1, 1998.

1. Limitation. The assistance increase required by this section does not apply to assistance units with earned income disregarded pursuant to department rule or section 3762, subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph (7).

2. Determination of eligibility. In determining eligibility for TANF benefits for applicants after July 1, 1998, the department shall use the gross income pretest in effect on January 1, 1998.

3. Coordination with special housing allowance. The assistance increase required by this section does not decrease the special housing allowance payment under section 3762, subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph (6) to assistance units that have received the special housing allowance without interruption since June, 1998.

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

1998-99

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

All Other \$380,058

Provides funds to cover a portion of the costs associated with increasing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families assistance by 5% under certain circumstances.

Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from the Federal Block Grant Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1998-99

R & S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 791, L.D. 2118

2 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

4 Temporary Assistance for
6 Needy Families

8 All Other \$2,543,466

10 Provides funds to cover a
12 portion of the costs
14 associated with increasing
16 Temporary Assistance for
18 Needy Families assistance by
20 5% under certain
22 circumstances.

24 Additional Support for Persons
26 in Retraining and Employment

28 All Other (2,543,466)

30 Deallocates funds from
32 available balances.

34 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
36 TOTAL

-\$0-

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

42 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
44 summary the following:

46 FISCAL NOTE

1998-99

48 APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

50 General Fund \$380,058
Other Funds 0

52 The estimated cost of providing a 5% increase in Temporary
54 Assistance for Needy Families under certain circumstances is
56 \$2,923,524 in fiscal year 1998-99. These costs are funded in
58 fiscal year 1998-99 by a General Fund appropriation of \$380,058
60 and a Federal Block Grant fund allocation of \$2,543,466 to the
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The TANF
allocation is offset by an equal deallocation from the Additional

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 791, L.D. 2118

2 Support for Persons in Retraining and Employment (ASPIRE)
program. The ASPIRE funding is available since budgeted
4 allocations exceed the current projections of the cost of that
program.'

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SUMMARY

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10 This amendment replaces the bill. It adds an emergency
preamble and an emergency clause. It requires an increase in
12 benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
program (TANF) by 5% of the benefit amount in effect on January
1, 1998, while disallowing the increase for households receiving
14 the earned income disregard. The increase will not affect
households receiving the special housing allowance continuously
16 from June 1, 1998. Eligibility will be determined for new
applicants for TANF using the gross income pretest in effect on
18 January 1, 1998. The amendment also adds an appropriation, an
allocation and a fiscal note to the bill.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT