

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 332

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H.P. 228

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

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**An Act to Increase the Availability of Prescription Drugs for the State's  
Elderly.**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative KANE of Saco.  
Cosponsored by Representative RICHARDSON of Brunswick,  
Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and  
Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport, FULLER of Manchester, GAGNON of Waterville,  
LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach, O'NEIL of Saco, TOWNSEND of Portland.

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

2  
4       **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-G, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

6       1-B. Elderly prescription drug program. The department  
8       shall apply to the federal Health Care Financing Administration  
10       for a waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits to  
12       qualified persons 62 years of age and over whose household income  
14       is less than or equal to 185% of the nonfarm income official  
16       poverty line. Coverage may not begin before July 1, 1999 and  
18       until the waiver application has been approved. Coverage must  
20       begin within 90 days of the date that the waiver application is  
22       approved.

24       **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6162-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1997, c.  
26       643, Pt. RR, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its  
28       place:

30       2. Household income. An individual is eligible under this  
32       program if the household income, as defined in section 6201,  
34       subsection 7, is less than or equal to 185% of the nonfarm income  
36       official poverty line. The official poverty line is that  
38       applicable to a household of the size involved, as defined by the  
40       Federal Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in  
accordance with the Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of  
1981, Section 673, Subsection 2.

## SUMMARY

30       This bill expands the elderly low-cost drug program to cover  
32       those who meet the age and disability requirements and whose  
34       income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty  
36       level. The current income limitation is approximately 131% of  
38       the federal poverty level.

40       This bill directs the Department of Human Services to seek a  
Medicaid waiver from the federal Health Care Financing  
Administration to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits for  
persons 62 years of age and over whose income is less than or  
equal to 185% of the federal poverty level.