

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 434

H.P. 318

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

An Act to Increase Accessibility to the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRY of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin and
Representatives: McGLOCKLIN of Embden, MENDROS of Lewiston, TWOMEY of
Biddeford.

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6162-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. RR, §6, is further amended to read:

2. Income. Eligibility for this program is determined by ~~the same income levels as eligibility for elderly households is determined under chapter 907, except that individuals are also eligible for this program if the household spends at least 40% of its income on unreimbursed direct medical expenses for prescription drugs and the household income is not more than 25% higher than the levels specified in chapter 907. For the purposes of this subsection, the costs of drugs provided to a household under this chapter is considered a cost spent by the household for eligibility determination purposes~~ section 6212-A.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6212-A is enacted to read:

§6212-A. Elderly low-cost drug program eligibility

A claimant representing an elderly household qualifies for benefits under an elderly low-cost drug program established in Title 22, section 254 if that claimant's annual income is at or below the income limitations of this section. Health-related costs for prescriptions, medical supplies and health insurance up to a maximum of \$150 per month per person in the household are deducted from income in determining eligibility.

1. Single-member elderly household. A single-member elderly household with an annual income at or below \$13,500 is eligible for benefits under an elderly low-cost drug program established in Title 22, section 254.

2. Elderly household with 2 or more members. An elderly household with 2 or more members with an annual income at or below \$15,000 is eligible for benefits under an elderly low-cost drug program established in Title 22, section 254.

SUMMARY

This bill changes the eligibility levels for an elderly low-cost drug program to grant eligibility to single-person households with an annual income up to \$13,500 and households of 2 or more members with an annual income up to \$15,000. Health-related costs for prescriptions, medical supplies and health insurance are deducted from income in determining eligibility.