

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1812

H.P. 1258

House of Representatives, March 11, 1999

An Act to Require the Development of a Basic Needs Budget.

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

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative COWGER of Hallowell.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, HATCH of Skowhegan,
McKEE of Wayne, VOLENIK of Brooklin, WATSON of Farmingdale, Senator: TREAT of
Kennebec.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5323, sub-§2, ¶¶C and D,** as enacted by PL
1991, c. 780, Pt. DDD, §14, are amended to read:

6 C. Seek federal, state and private funds to combat poverty
in the State; and

8 D. Advise the Governor, the Legislature and local officials
10 on the impact of state and local policies on poverty in the
State; and

12 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5323, sub-§2, ¶E** is enacted to read:

14 E. Compile and publish an annual basic needs budget for a
16 single parent with 2 children that includes the following
18 expenditure categories: housing, transportation, child
20 care, health care insurance and out-of-pocket health care
22 expenses, clothing, food, personal care and recreation.
24 This annual basic needs budget must include a brief
description of the expense assumptions used for each of the
expenditure categories and a calculation of the annual,
monthly, weekly and hourly income needed to meet this basic
needs budget.

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires the Department of Human Services,
30 Division of Purchased and Support Services, in connection with
its current duty to monitor the poverty level in the State, to
32 compile and publish an annual basic needs budget for a single
parent with 2 children that includes basic expenses and a
34 calculation of the income needed to meet this basic needs budget.