



120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 34

S.P. 18

In Senate, January 9, 2001

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

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MCALEVEY of York. Cosponsored by Representative BROOKS of Winterport and Representatives: ANDREWS of York, MACDOUGALL of North Berwick, MURPHY of Berwick, TARAZEWICH of Waterboro.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §254, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c. 401, 4 Pt. KKK, §1 and affected by §10 and c. 531, Pt. F, §2, is further amended to read:

Income eligibility. Income eligibility of individuals 2. 8 must be determined by this subsection and by reference to the federal nonfarm income official poverty level, as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in 10 United accordance with the States Omnibus Budget and 12 Reconciliation Act of 1981, Section 673, Subsection 2. If the household income, as defined in subsection 9, is less than 185% 225% of the federal poverty line applicable to the household, the 14 individual is eligible for the basic and the supplemental program. Individuals are also eligible for the basic program and 16 the supplemental program if the household spends at least 40% 30% 18 of its income on unreimbursed direct medical expenses for prescription drugs and medications and the household income is 20 not more than 25% higher than the levels specified in this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection, the cost of 22 drugs provided to a household under this section is considered a cost incurred by the household for eligibility determination 24 purposes;

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SUMMARY

This bill increases eligibility for the elderly low-cost 30 drug program by increasing the income level from 185% to 225% of the nonfarm income official poverty level. This will increase 32 the monetary level, in 2000 figures, from \$20,820 to \$25,326 for a family of 2 persons. This bill also increases eligibility by 34 decreasing from 40% of income to 30% of income the amount of high medical expenses that increases the income eligibility level by 36 25%.