

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 479

H.P. 377

House of Representatives, February 1, 2001

An Act Concerning Eligibility for ASPIRE-TANF Participation in Households where an Individual has a Physical or Mental Health Disability.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative KANE of Saco.
Cosponsored by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and
Representatives: DUDLEY of Portland, FULLER of Manchester, LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER
of Biddeford, NUTTING of Oakland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3763, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:**

6 2-A. Persons with disabilities. TANF recipients who care
8 for a household member that has a physical or mental health
10 problem requiring care are considered to be fully meeting the
12 participation requirements of ASPIRE-TANF. The department shall
14 make ASPIRE-TANF services under chapter 1054-A and Parents as
16 Scholars Program services under chapter 1054-B available on a
18 voluntary basis to TANF recipients who care for such a household
20 member. If a parent or caretaker relative receiving TANF has a
22 physical or mental health problem that imposes a limitation on
24 that person's ability to work, that person must be offered
26 ASPIRE-TANF and Parents as Scholars Program services on a
voluntary basis. ASPIRE-TANF and Parents as Scholars Program
services must be made available under this subsection to the same
extent they are made available to other ASPIRE-TANF or Parents as
Scholars Program participants. No person in a household that
includes a person with a physical or mental health problem
described in this subsection may be sanctioned for failing to
comply with the rules of ASPIRE-TANF. All participants in
ASPIRE-TANF and the Parents as Scholars Program must be notified,
in clear and prominent writing, of the provisions of this
subsection at the TANF orientation and each time they renew their
family contract.

28 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill requires that TANF recipients who care for a
32 household member with a physical or mental health problem be
34 considered by the Department of Human Services to fully meet
36 their ASPIRE-TANF participation requirements. TANF recipients
38 who have physical or mental health problems that limit their
40 ability to work must be offered the opportunity to participate in
42 ASPIRE-TANF or the Parents as Scholars Program on a voluntary
basis. The department is prohibited from sanctioning households
that include members with these physical or mental health
problems. The department is required to notify ASPIRE-TANF and
Parents as Scholars Program recipients of these provisions at
their orientation and each time their family contract is renewed.