

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 887

H.P. 683

House of Representatives, February 15, 2001

An Act to Expand the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative PEAVEY of Woolwich.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVAGE of Knox and
Representatives: BERRY of Belmont, GERZOFKY of Brunswick, GREEN of Monmouth,
HASKELL of Milford, O'BRIEN of Augusta, WATSON of Farmingdale, Senator: SMALL of
Sagadahoc.

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

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

2. Income eligibility. Income eligibility of individuals 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 accordance with the United States Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1981, Section 673, Subsection 2. If the household income, as defined in subsection 9, is less than ~~185%~~ 189% of the federal poverty line applicable to the household, the individual is eligible for the basic and the supplemental program. Individuals are also eligible for the basic program and the supplemental program if the household spends at least 40% of its income on unreimbursed direct medical expenses for prescription drugs and medications and the household income is not more than 25% higher than the levels specified in this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection, the cost of drugs provided to a household under this section is considered a cost incurred by the household for eligibility determination purposes;

SUMMARY

This bill increases the maximum income eligibility level for the elderly low-cost drug program from less than 185% of the federal poverty level to less than 189% of the federal poverty level; at 2000 income levels, this is an increase in the income threshold of approximately \$300 for a single person and \$682 for a family of 4.