

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1033

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 120TH LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 789, L.D. 1033, Bill, "An Act to Make Child Care More Accessible for Parents in Transition From Welfare to Work"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. S, §3, is further amended by amending subparagraph (6) to read:

(6) To provide a special housing allowance for TANF families whose shelter expenses for rent, mortgage or similar payments, homeowners insurance and property taxes equal or exceed 75% of their monthly income. The special housing allowance is limited to \$50 per month for each family. For purposes of this subparagraph, "monthly income" means the total of the TANF monthly benefit and all income countable under the TANF program, plus child support received by the family, excluding the \$50 pass-through payment; and

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. S, §3, is further amended by repealing and replacing subparagraph (7) to read:

(7) In determining benefit levels for TANF recipients who have earnings from employment, the department shall disregard from monthly earnings the following:

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- 2                   (a) One hundred and eight dollars;
- 4                   (b) Fifty percent of the remaining earnings that  
6                   are less than the federal poverty level; and
- 8                   (c) All actual child care costs necessary for  
10                   work, except that the department may limit the  
12                   child care disregard to \$175 per month per child  
14                   or \$200 per month per child under 2 years of age  
16                   or with special needs;

18                   **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§3, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1999, c.  
20                   401, Pt. S, §3, is further amended by enacting subparagraphs (8)  
22                   to (11) to read:

24                   (8) In cases when the TANF recipient has no child care  
26                   cost, the monthly TANF benefit is the maximum payment  
28                   level or the difference between the countable earnings  
30                   and the standard of need established by rule adopted by  
32                   the department, whichever is lower;

34                   (9) In cases when the TANF recipient has child care  
36                   costs, the department shall determine a total benefit  
38                   package, including TANF cash assistance, determined in  
40                   accordance with subparagraph (7) and additional child  
42                   care assistance, as provided by rule, necessary to  
44                   cover the TANF recipient's actual child care costs up  
46                   to the maximum amount specified in section 3782-A,  
48                   subsection 5. The benefit amount must be paid as  
                      provided in this subparagraph.

(a) Before the first month in which child care  
                      assistance is available to an ASPIRE-TANF  
                      recipient under this paragraph and periodically  
                      thereafter, the department shall notify the  
                      recipient of the total benefit package and the  
                      following options of the recipient: to receive the  
                      total benefit package directly; or to have the  
                      department pay the recipient's child care  
                      assistance directly to the designated child care  
                      provider for the recipient and pay the balance of  
                      the total benefit package to the recipient.

(b) If an ASPIRE-TANF recipient notifies the  
                      department that the recipient chooses to receive  
                      the child care assistance directly, the department  
                      shall pay the total benefit package to the  
                      recipient.



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2 child care costs. It allows TANF recipients to pay their child  
care costs themselves, with the assistance provided by the  
4 Department of Human Services, or they may elect to have the  
department's assistance paid directly to the child care  
6 provider. It requires the department to adopt rules to implement  
the child care assistance provisions. These rules are routine  
8 technical rules. It requires the direct payment of child care  
assistance to be implemented no later than March 1, 2002. It  
10 allows the transfer of funds from the ASPIRE-TANF account to the  
TANF account for the payment of child care assistance. The  
12 amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.