

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 609

S.P. 218

In Senate, February 11, 2003

An Act To Offset the United States Citizenship Test Fee for Low-income Residents

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative DUDLEY of Portland and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BRENNAN of Cumberland, DOUGLASS of Androscoggin,
MARTIN of Aroostook, Representatives: LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford,
LERMAN of Augusta, SIMPSON of Auburn.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3109** is enacted to read:

6 **§3109. United States citizenship test fee**

8 The department shall pay the United States citizenship test
10 fee for a qualified low-income resident of the State who is
12 seeking United States citizenship. A low-income person qualifies
under this section if the person qualifies to take the exam and
has been a resident of the State for at least one year and the
person's income falls below the median income of the State.

14 **Sec. 2. Department rules.** The Department of Human Services
16 shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this Act. The
18 rules must provide that the department assist an applicant in
20 applying for a fee waiver provided by the Federal Government and
22 that the State pay the citizenship test fee directly to the
24 federal agency responsible for administering the United States
citizenship test. The rules must also develop a process that is
most cost-effective for the State and simple as possible for the
applicant. Rules adopted pursuant to this Act are major
substantive rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill directs the Department of Human Services to pay
30 the United States citizenship test fee for a low-income person
32 seeking United States citizenship who has been a resident of the
34 State for at least one year and whose income is below the median
36 income of the State. This bill also directs the department to
38 adopt rules to implement this provision, including that the
40 department assist an applicant in filing for a fee waiver from
the Federal Government and that the State pay the citizenship
test fee directly to the Federal Government. The rules must also
develop a process that is most cost-effective for the State and
simple as possible for the applicant.