



# **122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE**

# **FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005**

Legislative Document	No. 367

S.P. 114

In Senate, January 25, 2005

## An Act To Monitor and Maintain Maximum Levels of Assistance in the General Assistance Program

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

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRENNAN of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative PINGREE of North Haven and Senators: BARTLETT of Cumberland, COWGER of Kennebec, PERRY of Penobscot, SCHNEIDER of Penobscot, STRIMLING of Cumberland, Representative: O'BRIEN of Lewiston.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4305, sub-§3-B, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. AAA, §3, is further amended to read:

6 3-B. Temporary maximum levels. Notwithstanding subsection 3-A, municipalities shall establish an aggregate maximum level of 8 assistance that is 110% of the applicable existing housing fair market rents as established by the United States Department of 10 Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 888.115, applying the zero-bedroom level for 12 one person, the one-bedroom level for 2 persons, the 2-bedroom level for 3 persons, the 3-bedroom level for 4 persons and the 14 4-bedroom level for 5 persons. For each additional person, the aggregate maximum level increases by \$75. For the purposes of 16 this subsection, municipalities with populations greater than 10,000 are deemed Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas in 18 those counties for which there are 2 fair market rent values and the aggregate maximum level of assistance for all Standard 20 Metropolitan Statistical Areas is the average of the fair market rental values for the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas and areas that are not Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas for 22 each county in which there are 2 fair market rental values.

Beginning October 2005 and annually thereafter, the aggregate maximum level of assistance must be established at the greater of 26 110% of the fair market rents as determined in this subsection and the amount achieved by annually increasing the most recent 28 aggregate maximum level of assistance by the percentage increase 30 in the federal poverty level of the current year over the federal poverty level of the prior year.

32 For the purposes of this subsection, "federal poverty level" means that measure defined by the federal Department of Health 34 and Human Services and updated annually in the Federal Register under authority of 42 United States Code, Section 9902(2). 36

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires that beginning October 2005 and annually thereafter, the aggregate maximum level of general assistance

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must be established at the greater of 110% of the fair market rents and the amount achieved by annually increasing the most recent aggregate maximum level of general assistance by the percentage increase in the federal poverty level of the current 46 year over the prior year.