



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 481

H.P. 356

House of Representatives, February 1, 2005

Resolve, To Ensure That Public Assistance Benefits Do Not Exceed Average Wages for a County

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

Millicent M. Mac Failand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative THOMAS of Ripley. Cosponsored by Senator DOW of Lincoln and Representatives: JOY of Crystal, McFADDEN of Dennysville, PINKHAM of Lexington Township, RICHARDSON of Skowhegan, VAUGHAN of Durham.

Sec. 1. Proposal to limit public assistance. Resolved: That the 2 Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a proposal to limit public assistance for families. The proposed limitation 4 must apply to all benefits of all types for which a family might qualify, including benefits under the Temporary Assistance for 6 Needy Families program under the United States Social Security Act, emergency assistance, home heating assistance, general assistance, rental assistance, the federal food stamp program, 8 the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and 10 Children under the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, any other state, federal or municipal program of public assistance and the federal low-income tax credit. The limitation must be designed 12 to restrict eligibility for or the amount of benefits under programs funded from the General Fund by comparing the total of 14 benefits available to a family to the average wages for the 16 county in which the family lives. The limitation must encourage the adults in families that would otherwise be eligible for 18 benefits to seek and obtain employment. By January 1, 2006, the department shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the proposed limit on public assistance. 20

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SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to propose a limit on all forms of public assistance that would be implemented through a cap on public assistance benefits funded from the General Fund in order to encourage adults in families that might otherwise be eligible for benefits to seek employment. The resolve directs the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2006 on the proposed limit on public assistance.