

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 1746

S.P. 663

In Senate, December 30, 2005

An Act To Amend Certain Requirements in the ASPIRE-TANF Program

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 28, 2005. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative O'BRIEN of Lewiston and
Representative: MILLER of Somerville.

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3788, sub-§10, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1997, c.
4 530, Pt. A, §26, is further amended to read:

6 C. Education Except for participants who are accepted into
7 the Parents as Scholars Program established under section
8 3790, education, training and treatment is limited to a
9 maximum of 24 months, starting with the first day of
10 participation in any allowable and approved job skills or
11 occupational skills training activity. The 24-month period
12 may be extended by the commissioner or the designee of the
13 commissioner for good cause shown.

14
15 The department may approve a job skills or occupational
16 training activity longer than 24 months provided the
17 participant agrees to perform a minimum of 20 hours a week
18 of work site experience by no later than the end of the
19 24-month period. Qualifying work site experience may
20 include, but is not limited to, paid employment,
21 workforce-MaineServe, ASPIRE-Plus, work study,
22 training-related practicums or any other such work site
23 approved by the department. The 24-month period does not
24 include periods of nonactivity in which good cause has been
25 determined.

26
27 For individuals who are satisfactorily participating in an
28 education or training program prior to the work evaluation,
29 the department must determine the acceptability of the
30 activity for purposes of meeting the participation
31 requirements of this chapter using the same criteria as is
32 used for any individual in the ASPIRE-TANF program.

34 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3788, sub-§12**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 530,
35 Pt. A, §26, is further amended to read:

36
37 **12. Developing resources.** To assist the department in its
38 efforts to encourage job placement opportunities and provide the
39 services necessary to ensure self-support to recipients of TANF
40 assistance, the department may contract with public and private
41 agencies to establish job placement opportunities.

42
43 In order to assist in the development of job placement
44 opportunities, the department in cooperation with the Department
45 of Labor and other state agencies shall explore the feasibility
46 of developing a shared approach to technology to support access
47 to information talent banks, national job banks, Maine's job
48 listings and any other job opportunity listings, to facilitate
49 linking program resources listings and to coordinate case service
50 providers.

2 In addition, all public and private agencies are subject to the
following requirements.

4
6 A. All agencies that receive funds from any state
department or division must provide at least one
workforce-MaineServe opportunity for an ASPIRE-TANF
8 participant.

10 B. All state agencies that provide funding for child care
or transportation services must require that recipients of
12 TANF be given priority for those services.

14 C. All agencies that receive funds from any state agency
for the treatment of drug or alcohol abuse must require that
16 recipients of TANF be given priority for those services.

18 ~~The department shall work with and shall contract with agencies
to work with families in which there are multiple barriers to
20 achieving employment and shall provide those agencies incentives
for working with the families to achieve employment. For each
22 family placed with an agency, the department shall pay a fee.
For each family member placed in full-time employment, the
24 department shall pay a premium. For each family member placed in
full-time employment in a job that provides health care benefits,
26 the department shall pay an additional bonus payment. The
commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this
28 subsection.~~

30 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3788, sub-§14**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 530,
Pt. A, §26, is repealed.

32 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3789-B**, as corrected by RR 2003, c. 2, §75,
34 is repealed.

36 **Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3789-C**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 418, Pt.
A, §36, is repealed.

38

40

SUMMARY

42 This bill accomplishes the following:

44 1. It clarifies that participants in the Parents as
Scholars Program are not limited to a maximum of 24 months of
46 education, training and treatment in the ASPIRE-TANF program;

48 2. It eliminates a never-used provision for contracting
with agencies to eliminate multiple barriers to achieving
50 employment;

2 3. It eliminates a provision to implement an intensive peer
education project to increase family planning services to TANF
4 recipients;

6 4. It repeals the provision establishing the
Interdepartmental Welfare Reform Committee; and

8
10 5. It eliminates the committee of staff and recipients
addressing application and case maintenance issues.