

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1854

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DATE: 3/9/06

(Filing No. H-820)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1294, L.D. 1854, Bill, "An Act To Expand the Alternative Aid Program"

Amend the bill in section 1 by striking out all of subsection 8 and inserting in its place the following:

'8. **Alternative aid.** ~~To assist applicants who seek short-term assistance to obtain or retain employment, the department shall pay one-time voucher payments of up to 3 times the monthly TANF grant for which the family is eligible.~~ The department shall provide alternative aid to applicants who seek short-term assistance in order to obtain or retain employment. The applicants must meet the eligibility requirements established by rule adopted pursuant to section 3762, subsection 3, paragraph A. The alternative aid may not exceed 3 times the value of the monthly TANF grant for which the applicant's family is eligible. An eligible applicant may receive alternative aid no more than once during any 12-month period. If the family reapplies for TANF within 3 months of receiving alternative aid, the family must shall repay any alternative aid received in excess of the amount that the family would have received on TANF. The method of repayment must be the same as that used for the repayment of unintentional overpayments in the TANF program.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

SUMMARY

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Like the bill, this amendment changes the availability of alternative aid from a once-in-a-lifetime benefit to an annual benefit that eligible applicants may receive in order to obtain or retain employment. The amendment clarifies that the eligibility criteria are set forth in rules of the Department of Health and Human Services, that the value of the aid cannot exceed 3 times the value of monthly TANF benefit for which the applicant's family is eligible and that an eligible applicant may receive the benefit once during any 12-month period.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1854

LR 3006(02)

An Act to Expand the Alternative Aid Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs that may result from the expanded utilization of alternative aid assistance are expected to be offset by a reduction in the utilization of assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program.