

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE LAW  
AUGUSTA, ME

# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1375

H.P. 965

House of Representatives, April 2, 2009

### An Act Regarding the Formula for the General Assistance Program

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAREY of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CLARK of Millinocket, EDGECOMB of Caribou, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, SAVIELLO of Wilton, Senator: MILLS of Somerset.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. AAA, §7  
3 and PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

4 **1. Departmental reimbursement.** When a municipality incurs net general  
5 assistance costs in any fiscal year in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent  
6 state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, as  
7 determined by the State Tax Assessor in the statement filed as provided in Title 36,  
8 section 381, the ~~Department of Health and Human Services~~ department shall reimburse  
9 the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures ~~when~~ if the  
10 department finds that the municipality has been in compliance with all requirements of  
11 this chapter. If a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds  
12 distributed from any municipally-controlled trust fund that must otherwise be considered  
13 for purposes of this chapter, the department shall reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3%  
14 of the amount in excess of such expenditures when the department finds that the  
15 municipality has otherwise been in compliance with all requirements of this chapter. If  
16 the unemployment rate for a municipality for the previous 3 months exceeds the average  
17 of the statewide unemployment rate for the comparable calendar quarters for the previous  
18 5 years, the department shall pay 90% of the general assistance granted by that  
19 municipality if the department finds that the municipality has been in compliance with all  
20 requirements of this chapter. The department shall pay an increase in departmental  
21 reimbursement under this subsection until the condition requiring that increase returns to  
22 the level at which the increase is not required.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse a  
25 municipality 90% of the municipality's general assistance costs if the unemployment rate  
26 of the municipality for the previous 3 months exceeds the average of the statewide  
27 unemployment rate for the comparable calendar quarters for the previous 5 years. This  
28 bill also requires the department to pay a statutorily increased reimbursement of general  
29 assistance costs for certain economic conditions as long as those conditions exist.