

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SMG
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L.D. 1343

Date: 6/5/13

(Filing No. H-345)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

126TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 960, L.D. 1343, Bill, "An Act To Improve Work Readiness for Families Facing Significant Barriers to Employment"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3788, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Comprehensive screening and assessment. If upon an initial screening or at a later date it is determined that a participant has physical or mental health impairments, learning disabilities, cognitive impairments or limitations related to providing care for a household member with a disability or serious illness or a child with a serious behavioral condition, the participant must be offered the opportunity for a comprehensive assessment that may result in referral for alternative services, supports and income benefits. If the participant chooses to have a comprehensive assessment, the participant must be referred to a qualified professional to identify the strengths and needs of and barriers faced by that participant. The participant's case manager shall ensure that any accommodation or support services necessary for the participant to participate in the assessment are made available to the participant. The participant may supplement this assessment with medical records or any other credible information related to the participant's ability to participate in program activities. An assessment under this subsection may also be initiated at the choice of the participant at any time. The individual performing this assessment shall recommend to the case manager any services, supports and programs needed to improve the economic self-sufficiency and well-being of the participant and the participant's family based on the assessment.

In coordination with the participant, the case manager shall establish a plan for the participant and the participant's family based on the assessment that includes appropriate services, supports and programs consistent with the findings and recommendations of the assessment that may include:

A. Referral to a community agency qualified to assist the participant with services, supports, education, training and accommodations needed to reduce or overcome any barriers to achieving self-sufficiency and to fulfill the participant's personal and family responsibilities; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 B. Assistance needed by the participant to obtain federal social security disability
2 insurance benefits or federal supplemental security income benefits.

3 This subsection does not preclude a determination that the participant is temporarily
4 unable to participate, including participation in any assessment pursuant to this
5 subsection, due to good cause as described in section 3785. Any determination made
6 under this subsection may be appealed in accordance with section 3762, subsection 9.

7 A participant who chooses to participate in a comprehensive assessment under this
8 subsection and fails to participate without good cause may be sanctioned in accordance
9 with section 3763, subsection 1-A, paragraph A regardless of any previous sanctions that
10 the participant may have incurred.

11 The department shall provide training for case managers regarding their job
12 responsibilities and their obligation to comply with the requirements of the federal
13 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the
14 Maine Human Rights Act when interviewing and providing information to participants,
15 when referring participants for alternative services or when considering whether the
16 participant requires reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the ASPIRE-
17 TANF program.'

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This amendment clarifies the role of the case manager in the comprehensive
20 screening and assessment process. It also clarifies that a person who fails to participate
21 without good cause may be sanctioned by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)**



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1343

LR 1617(02)

An Act To Improve Work Readiness for Families Facing Significant Barriers to Employment

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-345)

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The Department of Health and Human Services is already in the process of selecting a contractor for these assessment services at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million annually to be funded from federal block grant funds. Any additional costs resulting from this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.