

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1416

S.P. 510

In Senate, April 23, 2013

**An Act Regarding Responsibility of General Assistance for a Person
Who Is Released from Prison**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative FREY of Bangor, Representative SCHNECK of Bangor and
Senators: BOYLE of Cumberland, HASKELL of Cumberland, JACKSON of Aroostook,
KATZ of Kennebec, YOUNGBLOOD of Penobscot, Representatives: BROOKS of
Winterport, MORRISON of South Portland, POULIOT of Augusta.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4307, sub-§4**, as corrected by RR 2009, c. 2, §58, is amended
3 to read:

4 **4. Special circumstances.** Overseers of a municipality may not move or transport
5 an applicant or recipient into another municipality to relieve their municipality of
6 responsibility for that applicant's or recipient's support. The municipality of
7 responsibility for relocations, persons released from correctional facilities and
8 institutional settings is as follows.

9 A. When an applicant or recipient requests relocation to another municipality and the
10 overseers of a municipality assist that person to relocate to another municipality, the
11 municipality from which that person is moving continues to be responsible for the
12 support of the recipient for 30 days after relocation. As used in this paragraph,
13 "assist" includes:

14 (1) Granting financial assistance to relocate; and

15 (2) Making arrangements for a person to relocate.

16 B. If an applicant is in a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home,
17 hospital or other institution at the time of application and has either been in that
18 institution for 6 months or less, or had a residence immediately prior to entering the
19 institution which the applicant had maintained and to which the applicant intends to
20 return, the municipality of responsibility is the municipality where the applicant was
21 a resident immediately prior to entering the institution. For the purpose of this
22 paragraph, a hotel, motel or similar place of temporary lodging is considered an
23 institution when a municipality:

24 (1) Grants financial assistance for a person to move to or stay in temporary
25 lodging;

26 (2) Makes arrangements for a person to stay in temporary lodging;

27 (3) Advises or encourages a person to stay in temporary lodging; or

28 (4) Illegally denies housing assistance and, as a result of that denial, the person
29 stays in temporary lodging.

30 C. If an applicant has been released from a correctional facility within 45 days of
31 application, the municipality of responsibility for the first 12 months of payment of
32 benefits is the municipality that was on record as the residence of the applicant when
33 the applicant was committed to the correctional facility. A municipality of
34 responsibility must accept an application for general assistance by telephone if the
35 applicant is calling from another municipal office.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill provides that if an applicant for general assistance under the Maine Revised
38 Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1161 has been released from a correctional facility within 45
39 days of application, the municipality of responsibility for the first 12 months of benefits is

1 the municipality that was on record as the residence of the applicant when the applicant
2 was committed to the correctional facility. The bill requires that a responsible
3 municipality accept applications by telephone as long as the call is being made from a
4 municipal office.