

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 722

S.P. 252

In Senate, March 5, 2015

An Act To Strengthen Penalties for Abuse of General Assistance

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: LIBBY of Androscoggin, MASON of Androscoggin,
McCORMICK of Kennebec, WILLETTE of Aroostook, Representatives: SANDERSON of
Chelsea, VACHON of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4315, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. AAA, §9, is
3 further amended to read:

4 Whoever knowingly and willfully makes any false representation of a material fact to
5 the overseer of any municipality or to the department or its agents for the purpose of
6 causing that or any other person to be granted assistance by the municipality or by the
7 State shall reimburse the municipality for that assistance, is ineligible for assistance for a
8 period of the longer of 120 days and until that reimbursement is made and is guilty of a
9 Class E crime.

10 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4315, 3rd ¶**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. AAA, §9, is
11 further amended to read:

12 If the fair hearing officer finds that a recipient made a false representation to the
13 overseer in violation of this section, that recipient is required to reimburse the
14 municipality for any assistance rendered for which that recipient was ineligible and is
15 ineligible from receiving further assistance for a period of the longer of 120 days and
16 until that reimbursement is made.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill provides that a person who makes a false representation of a material fact to
19 obtain municipal general assistance is ineligible to receive further assistance for a period
20 of the longer of 120 days and until that reimbursement is made. Current law provides for
21 a period of ineligibility of 120 days.