

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 10

H.P. 11

House of Representatives, January 5, 2017

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**An Act To Build Greater Accountability into the General Assistance Program by Increasing the Penalty for Falsely Representing Information on an Application for General Assistance**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield.  
Cosponsored by Senator WHITEMORE of Somerset and  
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, BICKFORD of Auburn, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro,  
FOLEY of Wells, REED of Carmel, STETKIS of Canaan, TUELL of East Machias, WINSOR  
of Norway.

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 2015, c. 312, §1, is further  
3 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 is guilty of a Class E crime and shall reimburse the municipality for that assistance.  
8 Further assistance may be denied until that person reimburses the municipality for the  
9 assistance or enters into a written agreement, which must be reasonable under the  
10 circumstances, to reimburse the municipality or that person has been ineligible for  
11 assistance for a period of ~~120 days~~ 24 months, whichever period is longer.

12 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4315, 3rd ¶**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 312, §2, is further  
13 amended to read:

14 If the overseer of any municipality or the fair hearing officer finds that a recipient  
15 made a false representation to the overseer in violation of this section, that recipient is  
16 required to reimburse the municipality for any assistance rendered for which that  
17 recipient was ineligible. The recipient is ineligible from receiving further assistance for a  
18 period of ~~120 days~~ 24 months or until that person reimburses the municipality for the  
19 assistance or enters into a written agreement, which must be reasonable under the  
20 circumstances, to reimburse that municipality, whichever period is longer.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill increases the ineligibility penalty for falsifying a general assistance  
23 application from 120 days to 24 months.