

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 219

Date: 5/3/2017

(Filing No. S-02)

Minority

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 65, L.D. 219, Bill, "An Act To Prioritize Use of Available Resources in General Assistance Programs"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4308, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 489, §§5 and 14, is amended to read:

A. A person who is currently disqualified from general assistance for a violation of section 4315, 4316-A or 4317 or 4317-A is ineligible for emergency assistance under this subsection.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds a cross-reference to provide that a person who is disqualified from general assistance for a violation of the provisions of the bill is ineligible for emergency general assistance.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 219

LR 793(02)

An Act To Prioritize Use of Available Resources in General Assistance Programs

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

(S-02)

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium savings - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill makes an applicant for general assistance who voluntarily abandons or refuses to use an available resource without just cause ineligible to receive general assistance to replace the abandoned or refused resource for a period of 120 days. This will potentially reduce assistance payments made by municipalities and reduce amounts reimbursed to municipalities by the Department of Health and Human Services. The potential savings to the department is not expected to be significant because the frequency of refusing or abandoning resources is expected to be very small, the municipalities ability to identify abandoned or refused resources is unknown and recipients typically do not stay in the program, having to reapply each month they seek help. A more precise estimate of the fiscal impact is not possible because recipient data related to number of months on assistance, amounts paid to each recipient, number of recipients who return and the frequency of refusal of resources resides at the municipal level and varies over time.