

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 220

S.P. 66

In Senate, January 24, 2017

**An Act To Align Time Limits in the Municipal General Assistance
Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program**

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 Senator: MASON of Androscoggin, Representative: SANDERSON of
Chelsea.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 324, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Eligible person.** "Eligible person" means a person who is qualified to receive
5 general assistance from a municipality according to standards of eligibility determined by
6 the municipal officers whether or not that person has applied for general assistance.
7 "Eligible person" does not include a person who is a fugitive from justice as defined in
8 Title 15, section 201, subsection 4. "Eligible person" does not include a person who is
9 ineligible to receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
10 program pursuant to section 3762, subsection 18, except that a person who has applied for
11 an extension of benefits under that section but with respect to whom the process is not yet
12 complete may be considered eligible and except that a person who has been ineligible to
13 receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for 5 or
14 more years may be considered eligible. Beginning July 1, 2015, in accordance with 8
15 United States Code, Section 1621(d), "eligible person" means a person who is lawfully
16 present in the United States or who is pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration
17 relief, except that assistance for such a person may not exceed 24 months.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill provides that a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit on
20 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program benefits is ineligible to receive
21 municipal general assistance program benefits except that a person who has been
22 ineligible to receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
23 program for 5 or more years may be considered eligible and a person who is in the
24 process of seeking an extension of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy
25 Families program may be considered eligible.