

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 264

H.P. 197

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

**An Act To Provide to Certain Benefit Recipients Information
Regarding Personal Finance Planning and To Distribute Benefits
More Frequently**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RILEY of Jay.
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and
Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, DENNO of Cumberland, MADIGAN of Waterville,
SKOLFIELD of Weld.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§§15 and 16** are enacted to read:

3 **15. Frequency of payment.** The department shall pay monthly food supplement
4 program benefits in 2 semimonthly installments.

5 **16. Information on money management to households.** The department shall
6 provide to households receiving food supplement program benefits information about
7 online and community courses on money management, including but not limited to
8 budgeting courses offered online and by local adult education and volunteer programs.

9 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3104-A, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 291, §3, is
10 further amended to read:

11 **3. Administration.** The department shall provide assistance under this section to
12 eligible households ~~on a monthly basis~~ in 2 semimonthly installments through an
13 electronic benefit transfer system.

14 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§3, ¶C** is enacted to read:

15 C. The department shall pay monthly TANF benefits provided under this section in 2
16 semimonthly installments.

17 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3763, sub-§10,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 530, Pt. A, §16, is
18 amended to read:

19 **10. Home survival skills.** The department shall provide and may contract with
20 public and private nonprofit agencies to provide instruction and experiential education for
21 TANF recipients in nutrition, food preparation and home and money management. The
22 department shall provide to TANF recipients information about online and community
23 courses on money management, including but not limited to budgeting courses offered
24 online and by local adult education and volunteer programs.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill accomplishes the following.

27 1. It makes food supplement program benefits and Temporary Assistance for Needy
28 Families, or "TANF," benefits payable on a semimonthly schedule.

29 2. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide recipients of
30 food supplement program benefits and TANF benefits with information about online and
31 community resources on money management.