

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/25/17

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 250, L.D. 336, Bill, "An Act To Amend the Requirements of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program"

Amend the bill by adding after section 1 the following:

'Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3785, as amended by PL 1997, c. 530, Pt. A, §§20 to 24, is further amended to read:

§3785. Sanctions

An individual may not be sanctioned under this program or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families for failure to participate in the ASPIRE-TANF program if that failure to participate is based on good cause. Each individual participating in an ASPIRE-TANF orientation must receive written and oral notice of what constitutes good cause for nonparticipation in ASPIRE-TANF including the domestic violence exception. Good cause for failure to participate in this program must be found when there is reasonable and verifiable evidence of:

1. Illness or incapacitation. The individual's illness, incapacity or advanced age, or the illness or incapacity of a household member, that requires the individual to provide care in the home;

2. Sexual harassment. Sexual harassment at a program-approved component;

3. Court-required appearance; incarceration. Court-required appearance or incarceration;

~~**4. Lack of supportive services.** Lack or breakdown of necessary supportive services such as child care or transportation with no appropriate alternatives available;~~

~~**5. Inelement weather.** Inelement weather that prevents the individual from traveling to an activity when the weather is severe enough to prevent other individuals from traveling to the same activity;~~

~~**6. Assignment to another activity.** Assignment by the department to an activity or component that has not been made part of the family contract;~~

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 ~~7. Remoteness.~~ Participation that requires the individual to travel outside the
2 individual's immediate geographic area, defined as an area within a 2-hour round-trip
3 commute;

4 **8. Crisis or special circumstance.** A crisis or special circumstance or other reason
5 that the department determines to be good cause that causes an individual to be absent
6 from or discontinue a department activity about which the department has been advised
7 and has determined to constitute good cause, including lack of transportation or child care
8 necessary for participation when the individual does not have reasonable access to that
9 service and the department cannot offer a reasonable alternative to enable the individual
10 to participate; or

11 ~~12. Other good cause.~~ Any other reason resulting in failure to participate that is
12 beyond the control of the individual or that a reasonable person would determine to be
13 good cause; or

14 **13. Domestic violence.** Inability to participate due to domestic violence when the
15 individual is unable to participate because of physical injuries or the psychological effects
16 of abuse; because of legal proceedings, counseling or other activities related to abuse;
17 because the abuser actively interferes with the individual's participation; because the
18 location puts the individual at risk; or for other good cause related to domestic violence.
19 For the purposes of this subsection, reasonable and verifiable evidence may include but is
20 not limited to the following:

21 A. Court, medical, law enforcement, child protective, social services, psychological
22 or other records that establish that the individual has been a victim of domestic
23 violence; or

24 B. Sworn statements from persons other than the individual with knowledge of the
25 circumstances affecting the individual.

26 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
27 allocations are made.

28 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

29 **Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment 0146**

30 Initiative: Provides funding to provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
31 benefits and alternative aid benefits to 2-parent families and to increase from \$200 to
32 \$300 the special housing allowance for families receiving TANF benefits.

33	FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2017-18	2018-19
34	All Other	\$835,215	\$1,113,620
35			
36	FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	<u>\$835,215</u>	<u>\$1,113,620</u>

37 **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138**

38 Initiative: Provides funding to provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
39 benefits and alternative aid benefits to 2-parent families and to increase from \$200 to
40 \$300 the special housing allowance for families receiving TANF benefits.

1	FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2017-18	2018-19
2	All Other	\$3,488,787	\$4,651,717
3			
4	FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	<u>\$3,488,787</u>	<u>\$4,651,717</u>
5	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
6	DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)		
7	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2017-18	2018-19
8			
9	FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$4,324,002	\$5,765,337
10			
11	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$4,324,002</u>	<u>\$5,765,337</u>
12			

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment adds a new section to the bill to remove certain good cause
 15 provisions from the laws governing the ASPIRE-TANF program and instead transfer to
 16 the Department of Health and Human Services the responsibility to determine other good
 17 cause.

18 The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

19 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

20 (See attached)



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 336

LR 530(02)

An Act To Amend the Requirements of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-298)*
 Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
Appropriations/Allocations				
Federal Block Grant Fund	\$4,324,002	\$5,765,337	\$5,765,337	\$5,765,337
Revenue				
Federal Block Grant Fund	\$4,324,002	\$5,765,337	\$5,765,337	\$5,765,337

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes Federal Block Grant Fund allocations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$4,324,002 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$5,765,337 in fiscal year 2018-19 to provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and alternative aid benefits to 2-parent families and to increase from \$200 to \$300 the special housing allowance for families receiving TANF benefits.