

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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57W
ROFS

L.D. 886

Date: 6/12/2017

Minority

(Filing No. S-247)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 286, L.D. 886, Bill, "An Act To Require That Maine Welfare Benefits Be Used in Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3763, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Restriction on use of electronic benefits transfer system outside State. A recipient of benefits under this chapter may not access those benefits using the electronic benefits transfer system established in section 22 outside of this State, unless a recipient is:

A. In New Hampshire; or

B. A victim of domestic violence and leaving the victim's abuser. The department may require a recipient asserting the applicability of this paragraph to provide reasonable and verifiable evidence of the domestic violence pursuant to section 3785, subsection 13.'

SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It prohibits a recipient of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, program from using an electronic benefits transfer system card to access those benefits outside of Maine unless the recipient is in New Hampshire or fleeing a domestic violence situation.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



Approved: 06/07/17 *MDC*

128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 886

LR 551(02)

An Act To Require That Maine Welfare Benefits Be Used in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-247)
Committee: Health and Human Services
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium savings - Federal Block Grant Funds
Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The Department of Health and Human Services does not have the technology to stop out-of-state purchases at the point of sale. However, an individual who knowingly violates the program rules could be sanctioned under the Intentional Program Violation, Chapter VI: Administrative Procedures in 10-144 Department of Health and Human Services Chapter 331: Public Assistance Manual (TANF - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) rules. These sanctions remove individuals from the program as follows: one year for first violation, 2 years for second violation and permanently for 3rd violation. Assuming individuals do violate the rules and purchase items using TANF funds outside of the state, excluding New Hampshire or fleeing a domestic violence situation, they could receive these sanctions and achieve savings in the TANF Federal Block Grant Funds.

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt new rules are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.