

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1109

S.P. 363

In Senate, March 21, 2017

An Act To Improve General Assistance Reimbursements

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative HAMANN of South Portland and
Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representatives: DENNO of Cumberland, HYMANSON of
York, JORGENSEN of Portland, MADIGAN of Waterville, PARKER of South Berwick,
PERRY of Calais, TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4307, sub-§2**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1987, c. 349,
3 Pt. H, §15, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 **2. Municipal responsibility.** Except as provided in subsection 4, a municipality is
5 responsible for the general assistance support of eligible persons as provided in this
6 subsection.

7 A. The municipality of record is responsible for the general assistance support of
8 eligible persons. For the purposes of this subsection, "the municipality of record" is
9 the municipality where the applicant was an occupant of a house, apartment or other
10 dwelling unit immediately prior to applying for assistance, as verified by a lease,
11 utility bill or other means that establishes the individual as maintaining a residence in
12 that municipality.

13 B. If an eligible person is not a resident of any municipality, the municipality to
14 which that person first applies is responsible for support until a new residence is
15 established.

16 C. If a municipality of record cannot be established or verified pursuant to paragraph
17 A, the municipality to which an eligible person applies is responsible for providing
18 assistance if the eligible person is a resident of that municipality.

19 For the purposes of this section, "resident" means a person who is physically present in a
20 municipality with the intention of remaining in that municipality to maintain or establish
21 a home and who has no other residence.

22 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4307, sub-§4, ¶A**, as corrected by RR 2009, c. 2, §58, is
23 amended to read:

24 A. When an applicant or recipient ~~requests relocation~~ relocates to another
25 municipality and the overseers of a municipality assist that person to relocate to
26 another municipality, the municipality from which that person is ~~moving~~ relocating
27 continues to be responsible for the support of the recipient for 30 days after
28 relocation. As used in this paragraph, "assist" includes:

- 29 (1) Granting financial assistance to relocate; ~~and~~ or
30 (2) Making arrangements for a person to relocate.

31 SUMMARY

32 This bill amends the municipal general assistance laws to provide a different method
33 of determining the residence of an applicant and the municipality responsible for
34 providing general assistance to that applicant, including an applicant relocating from
35 another municipality. The bill provides that the municipality of record, which is defined
36 as the municipality in which the applicant resided immediately prior to applying for
37 assistance, is the responsible municipality.