

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 910

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H.P. 666

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

### **An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement**

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

*Robert B. Hunt*  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. SSSS, §1, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 **1. Departmental reimbursement.** When a municipality incurs net general assistance  
5 costs in any fiscal year prior to July 1, 2015 in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most  
6 recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being  
7 issued, as determined by the State Tax Assessor in the statement filed as provided in Title  
8 36, section 381, the Department of Health and Human Services shall reimburse the  
9 municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures when the department  
10 finds that the municipality has been in compliance with all requirements of this chapter. If  
11 a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds distributed from any  
12 municipally-controlled trust fund that must otherwise be considered for purposes of this  
13 chapter, the department shall reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3% of the amount in  
14 excess of such expenditures when the department finds that the municipality has otherwise  
15 been in compliance with all requirements of this chapter.

16 The department shall reimburse each municipality and each Indian tribe 70% of the direct  
17 costs incurred by that municipality or tribe on or after July 1, 2015 and prior to July 1, 2022  
18 for the general assistance program granted by that municipality or tribe. For the purposes  
19 of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in section 411, subsection 8-A.

20 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1-D** is enacted to read:

21 **1-D. Departmental reimbursement beginning 2022.** Beginning July 1, 2022, the  
22 department shall reimburse each municipality for the direct costs incurred by that  
23 municipality for the general assistance program granted by that municipality if the  
24 department finds that the municipality was in compliance with all requirements of this  
25 chapter during the fiscal year for which reimbursement is sought. The department shall  
26 reimburse to each municipality an amount equal to 70% of all direct general assistance  
27 granted by the municipality equal to or below .0003 and 90% of all direct general assistance  
28 granted by the municipality in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent state  
29 valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, as  
30 determined by the State Tax Assessor in the statement filed as provided in Title 36, section  
31 381.

32 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1-E** is enacted to read:

33 **1-E. Indian tribe reimbursement beginning 2022.** Beginning July 1, 2022, the  
34 department shall reimburse each Indian tribe for 100% of all direct costs for general  
35 assistance granted by the Indian tribe if the department finds that the Indian tribe was in  
36 compliance with all requirements of this chapter during the fiscal year for which  
37 reimbursement is sought. For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same  
38 meaning as in section 411, subsection 8-A.

39 **SUMMARY**

40 This bill requires the State to provide 100% reimbursement for general assistance costs  
41 to Indian tribes. It provides that a municipality's most recent state valuation rather than the  
42 all state valuation is used for calculating when the municipality begins to be reimbursed  
43 90% for general assistance costs and that the reimbursement is for gross costs rather than

1 net costs. It establishes that the new departmental reimbursement to municipalities begins  
2 July 1, 2022.