

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 80

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H.P. 50

House of Representatives, January 4, 2023

**An Act to Improve Family Economic Security Under the Temporary  
Assistance for Needy Families Program**

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Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

*Robert B. Hunt*  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§3, ¶B**, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §176,  
3 is amended by repealing subparagraph (7-D), division (a) and enacting the following in its  
4 place:

5 (a) One hundred percent of:

6 (i) All earned income received for the first 3 months of employment that  
7 began while participating in TANF; or

8 (ii) The first 3 months of any increase in earned income received while  
9 participating in TANF.

10 Any month in which the disregard under this division does not increase the  
11 recipient's benefit above that which the benefit would be if the disregard in  
12 division (c) is applied does not count as a month in which earned income is  
13 disregarded under this division;

14 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§3, ¶B**, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §176,  
15 is amended by repealing subparagraph (7-D), division (b) and enacting the following in its  
16 place:

17 (b) Seventy-five percent of:

18 (i) All earned income received for the 4th to 6th months of employment  
19 that began while participating in TANF; or

20 (ii) The 4th to 6th months of any increase in earned income received while  
21 participating in TANF.

22 Any month in which the disregard under this division does not increase the  
23 recipient's benefit above that which the benefit would be if the disregard in  
24 division (c) is applied does not count as a month in which earned income is  
25 disregarded under this division;

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill amends the provisions of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or  
28 "TANF," program that relate to income disregards for the purposes of calculating a  
29 recipient's benefits. Current law provides that 100% of all earned income for the first 3  
30 months of employment and 75% of all earned income for the 4th to 6th months of  
31 employment must be disregarded from recipients' monthly earnings. This bill clarifies that  
32 this employment must have begun while participating in the TANF program. It also  
33 provides that 100% of the first 3 months of increased earned income received while  
34 participating in TANF and 75% of the 4th to 6th months of increased earned income  
35 received while participating in TANF are subject to these disregard provisions. The bill  
36 also makes a clarifying change by replacing the word "it" with "benefit."