

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 183

S.P. 87

In Senate, January 13, 2023

**An Act to Incorporate Time Limits on the Temporary Assistance for
Needy Families Program into Municipal General Assistance
Programs**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield and
Senators: HARRINGTON of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: ANDREWS of
Paris, BOYER of Poland, HYMES of Waldo, LIBBY of Auburn, SAMPSON of Alfred,
SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 324, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Eligible person.** "Eligible person" means a person who is qualified to receive
5 general assistance from a municipality according to standards of eligibility determined by
6 the municipal officers whether or not that person has applied for general assistance.
7 "Eligible person" does not include a person who is a fugitive from justice as defined in Title
8 15, section 201, subsection 4. "Eligible person" does not include a person who is ineligible
9 to receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program pursuant
10 to section 3762, subsection 18, except that a person who has applied for an extension of
11 benefits under that section but with respect to whom the process is not yet complete may
12 be considered eligible and except that a person who has been ineligible to receive benefits
13 under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for 5 or more years may be
14 considered eligible. Beginning July 1, 2015, in accordance with 8 United States Code,
15 Section 1621(d), "eligible person" means a person who is lawfully present in the United
16 States or who is pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration relief, except that
17 assistance for such a person may not exceed 24 months.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill provides that a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit on
20 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program benefits is ineligible to receive
21 municipal general assistance program benefits, except that a person who has been ineligible
22 to receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for 5 or
23 more years may be considered eligible and a person who is in the process of seeking an
24 extension of benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program may be
25 considered eligible.