

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 778

S.P. 337

In Senate, February 21, 2023

**An Act Regarding Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults  
Without Dependents Under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance  
Program**

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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 STEWART of Aroostook.  
Cosponsored by Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, GUERIN of Penobscot, LYFORD of  
Penobscot, MOORE of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§18** is enacted to read:

3 **18. Restriction on federal waiver applications.** Beginning January 1, 2024, the  
4 department may not request any waivers pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section  
5 2015(o)(4).

6 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§19** is enacted to read:

7 **19. Good-cause exemptions; limitations.** Beginning January 1, 2024, any able-  
8 bodied adult without dependents must comply with federal work requirements to qualify  
9 for SNAP benefits pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o) unless the individual  
10 qualifies for a good-cause exemption pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(3).  
11 The department may not grant any additional good-cause exemptions that may be allowable  
12 under 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(6)(E). For purposes of this subsection, "able-  
13 bodied adult without dependents" does not include an elderly or disabled member as  
14 defined in 7 United States Code, Section 2012(j).

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill, beginning January 1, 2024, prohibits the Department of Health and Human  
17 Services from requesting certain waivers and exemptions under the federal Supplemental  
18 Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP. It prohibits the department from applying for a  
19 waiver under 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(4), which allows for waivers in  
20 specific geographical areas that have unemployment over 10% or with insufficient jobs  
21 available. It also prohibits the department from providing exemptions to work  
22 requirements for up to 12% of individuals receiving SNAP benefits pursuant to 7 United  
23 States Code, Section 2015(o)(6)(E).