

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/30/26 Report 'A'

L.D. 978  
(Filing No. H-928)

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" to H.P. 638, L.D. 978, "An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

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

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

The department shall reimburse each municipality and each Indian tribe 70% of the direct costs incurred by that municipality or tribe on or after July 1, 2015 and before July 1, 2026 for the general assistance program granted by that municipality or tribe. ~~For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in section 411, subsection 8-A.~~ Beginning July 1, 2026, the department shall reimburse each municipality and each Indian tribe 75% of the direct costs incurred by that municipality or tribe for costs incurred on or after July 1, 2026.

For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in section 411, subsection 8-A.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF  
General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns 0130**

Initiative: Provides funding for increased state reimbursement for the cost of municipal general assistance to 75% of direct costs incurred by all municipalities on or after July 1, 2026.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,825,207
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	\$0	\$1,825,207

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill. It provides that the Department of Health and Human Services is required to reimburse municipalities and Indian tribes 75% of the direct costs for net general assistance incurred by such a municipality or Indian tribe for costs incurred on or after July 1, 2026.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 978

LR 1745(05)

## An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

*C (H-928)*

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$1,825,207	\$1,825,207	\$1,825,207
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$1,825,207	\$1,825,207	\$1,825,207

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$1,825,207 beginning in fiscal year 2026-27 to provide for increased state reimbursement for the cost of municipal general assistance to 75% of direct costs incurred by all municipalities on or after July 1, 2026.