

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/30/26 Report 'B'

L.D. 978
(Filing No. H-929)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "D" 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 as follows:

A. For the 6 municipalities or Indian tribes receiving the highest amount of state reimbursement for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2025, 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, 2026; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 B. For all other municipalities and Indian tribes, the department shall reimburse each
2 municipality and each Indian tribe 75% of the direct costs incurred by the municipality
3 or tribe for costs incurred on or after July 1, 2026.

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

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

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

10 Initiative: Provides funding for increased state reimbursement for the cost of municipal
11 general assistance to 75% of direct costs incurred by all municipalities on or after July 1,
12 2026, except for the top 6 recipients of state reimbursement for general assistance for the
13 period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025. These 6 municipalities will continue to be
14 reimbursed 70% of the direct costs incurred for general assistance.

15 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
16 All Other	\$0	\$265,771
17		
18 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$265,771

19
20 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
21 number to read consecutively.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This amendment replaces the bill. It provides that the Department of Health and Human
24 Services is required to reimburse the 6 municipalities or Indian tribes receiving the highest
25 amount of state reimbursement for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30,
26 2025 70% of the direct costs incurred by that municipality or tribe for net general assistance
27 costs incurred on or after July 1, 2026. For all other municipalities and Indian tribes, the
28 department is required to reimburse each municipality and each Indian tribe 75% of the
29 direct costs incurred by the municipality or tribe for net general assistance costs incurred
30 on or after July 1, 2026.

31 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
32 **(See attached)**



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 978

LR 1745(06)

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

D (H-929)

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$265,771	\$265,771	\$265,771
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$265,771	\$265,771	\$265,771

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$265,771 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, except for the top 6 recipients of state reimbursement for general assistance for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025. These 6 municipalities will continue to be reimbursed 70% of the direct costs incurred for general assistance.