

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1996

Date: 3/16/26

(Filing No. S-555)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 809, L.D. 1996, "An Act to Clarify Responsibilities of the State in the Laws Governing General Assistance"

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4323, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 575, §6, is amended to read:

6. Database. Beginning on July 1, ~~2025~~ 2028, the department shall provide overseers access to an Internet-based, real-time database containing the information necessary to properly determine an applicant's eligibility.

Sec. 2. Department report. The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a written update to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by February 1, 2027 regarding the department's progress toward building a statewide general assistance database pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4323, subsection 6.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to build a general assistance database.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,800,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$2,800,000

Office for Family Independence Z020

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 809, L.D. 1996 (S-555)

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Initiative: Provides funding to the Department of Health and Human Services for the ongoing maintenance of the general assistance database.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$450,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$450,000</u>
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$3,250,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,250,000</u>

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. It shifts from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028 the compliance date for the Department of Health and Human Services to create an Internet-based, real-time database containing the information necessary to properly determine an applicant's eligibility for general assistance. It requires the department to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by February 1, 2027 on its progress toward building a statewide general assistance database. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section providing \$2,800,000 in one-time funding to the department to build the database and \$450,000 in ongoing funding to maintain the database.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1996

LR 2801(02)

An Act to Clarify Responsibilities of the State in the Laws Governing General Assistance

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S.555)
 Committee: Health and Human Services
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$3,250,000	\$450,000	\$450,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$3,250,000	\$450,000	\$450,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$3,250,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 for the building and maintenance of a general assistance database.