

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
June 19, 2018 to September 13, 2018

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
DECEMBER 13, 2018

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 5, 2018 to June 20, 2019

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2019

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138

Initiative: Provides allocations for community action agencies to expand the services to assist parents to find stable employment.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138

Initiative: Provides allocations to change the income disregard and to no longer count earnings disregards against the 60-month limit in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$3,166,293	\$4,221,724
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$3,166,293	\$4,221,724

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138

Initiative: Provides deallocations to account for the reduction in transitional benefits due to changes in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	(\$3,311,876)	(\$4,415,834)
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	(\$3,311,876)	(\$4,415,834)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138

Initiative: Provides allocations to replace Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits due to increased income disregard in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$249,075	\$332,100
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$249,075	\$332,100

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2019-20	2020-21
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$4,821,040	\$6,428,054
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$4,821,040	\$6,428,054

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 485

H.P. 1261 - L.D. 1774

An Act To Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments so Families Can Thrive

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3109 is enacted to read:

§3109. Promoting accountable public programs that reduce poverty, alleviate hardship and increase sustainable employment for low-income families with children

The department shall implement a system of accountability to measure access to and the performance of certain programs administered by the department under this Subtitle to ensure that those programs are working effectively to improve the health and well-being of program participants.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Federal poverty level" has the same meaning as in section 3762, subsection 1, paragraph C.

B. "Food supplement" means the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the State pursuant to section 3104.

C. "TANF" has the same meaning as in section 3762, subsection 1, paragraph E.

D. "WIC" means the Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food Program described in section 3107.

2. Identify measures of child and family economic security. Beginning October 15, 2019 and annually thereafter, the department shall obtain and compile the following data for the State regarding child and family economic security from those sources reasonably available to the department, including, but not limited to, data collected and maintained by the department, data available from the Department of Labor and the Department of Administrative and Fi-

nancial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services or other state or federal agencies and such other data as can reasonably be obtained from other public or private sources upon request. The data must include:

A. The ratio of families with children receiving TANF cash assistance to the number of families with children and income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level in the current year and in the previous 4 years;

B. The percentage of children under 5 years of age receiving TANF cash assistance that also receive assistance from WIC in the current year and in the previous 4 years;

C. The percentage of children under 5 years of age receiving food supplement assistance that also receive assistance from WIC in the current year and in the previous 4 years;

D. For all families for whom TANF cash assistance has terminated:

(1) The number and percentage of families with no quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(2) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are below 50% of the federal poverty level:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(3) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 50% but below 100% of the federal poverty level:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(4) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 100% but below 150% of the federal poverty level:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(5) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 150% but below 200% of the federal poverty level:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(6) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 200% of the federal poverty level:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(7) The mean and median income of families with no quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(8) The number and percentage of families receiving income from the federal supplemental security income program or federal social security disability benefits:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

E. Cumulative data on the highest level of educational attainment of adult parents or caretaker relatives receiving TANF cash assistance and cumulative data on the highest level of educational attainment of adult parents or caretaker relatives whose participation in the program was terminated in the prior year;

F. The ratio of persons receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible persons; the ratio of persons 60 years of age or older receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible persons 60 years of age or older; the ratio of nonelderly persons with a disability receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible nonelderly persons with a disability; and the ratio of children under 18 years of age receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible children under 18 years of age;

G. The number and percentage of adult parents or caretaker relatives who have children in the household and who are receiving food supplement assistance, grouped by highest level of educational attainment of the adult parent or caretaker relative;

H. The ratio of people participating in the MaineCare program, by eligibility group, to the total number of potentially eligible persons within each group;

I. The number and percentage of applications received by the department for the MaineCare program and the children's health insurance program as defined in section 3174-X, subsection 1, paragraph A, by eligibility group, that are processed in less than 24 hours; that are processed within one to 7 days; that are processed within 8 to 30 days; that are processed within 31 to 45 days; and that are processed more than 45 days after receipt;

J. The average waiting times, by month, for a person calling the department's call center to speak to a person, not including an interactive voice response system; and

K. The number and percentage, by month, of telephone calls to the department's call center that are terminated by a caller prior to the caller's speaking to a person, not including an interactive voice response system.

3. Measuring the effect of department initiatives to improve child and family economic security; report. The department shall examine and use the

data related to program measures compiled pursuant to subsection 2 and consider how department programming can contribute to improvements in child and family economic security, including increased ability to meet basic needs, improved educational levels and increased incomes. Beginning January 15, 2021, and annually thereafter, the department shall present the data collected pursuant to subsection 2 along with an assessment of how these measures can be improved through department programming to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters for the committee's review. The department shall also identify any obstacles to improving the economic security for children, families and individuals and make recommendations for addressing those obstacles, which may include improved coordination between agencies of State Government. The committee's review must include the opportunity for public comment on the department's presentation and the committee may introduce any legislation that it considers necessary to address barriers faced by the department in improving economic security for children, families and individuals in this State.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-G, as amended by IB 2017, c. 1, Pt. A, §§1 to 3, is further amended to read:

§3174-G. Medicaid coverage of certain elderly and disabled individuals, children and pregnant women; transitional Medicaid

1. Delivery of services. The department shall provide for the delivery of federally approved Medicaid services to the following persons:

A. A qualified woman during her pregnancy and up to 60 days following delivery when the woman's family income is equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line;

B. An infant under one year of age when the infant's family income is equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, except that the department may adopt a rule that provides that infants in families with income over 185% and equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line who meet the eligibility requirements of the Cub Care program established under section 3174-T are eligible to participate in the Cub Care program instead of Medicaid. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A;

C. A qualified elderly or disabled person when the person's family income is equal to or below 100% of the nonfarm income official poverty line;

D. A child one year of age or older and under 19 years of age when the child's family income is equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, except that the department

may adopt a rule that provides that children described in this paragraph in families with income over 150% and equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line who meet the eligibility requirements of the Cub Care program established under section 3174-T are eligible to participate in the Cub Care program instead of Medicaid. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A;

E. On or before September 30, 2012, the parent or caretaker relative of a child described in paragraph B or D when the child's family income is equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, subject to adjustment by the commissioner under this paragraph and, beginning October 1, 2012, the parent or caretaker relative of a child described in paragraph B or D when the child's family income is equal to or below 133% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, subject to adjustment by the commissioner under this paragraph. Medicaid services provided under this paragraph must be provided within the limits of the program budget. Funds appropriated for services under this paragraph must include an annual inflationary adjustment equivalent to the rate of inflation in the Medicaid program. On a quarterly basis, the commissioner shall determine the fiscal status of program expenditures under this paragraph. If the commissioner determines that expenditures will exceed the funds available to provide Medicaid coverage pursuant to this paragraph, the commissioner must adjust the income eligibility limit for new applicants to the extent necessary to operate the program within the program budget. If, after an adjustment has occurred pursuant to this paragraph, expenditures fall below the program budget, the commissioner must raise the income eligibility limit to the extent necessary to provide services to as many eligible persons as possible within the fiscal constraints of the program budget, as long as on or before September 30, 2012 the income limit does not exceed 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line and, beginning October 1, 2012, the income limit does not exceed 133% of the nonfarm income official poverty line;

F. A person 20 to 64 years of age who is not otherwise covered under paragraphs A to E when the person's family income is below or equal to 125% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, as long as the commissioner adjusts the maximum eligibility level in accordance with the requirements of the paragraph.

(2) If the commissioner reasonably anticipates the cost of the program to exceed the budget of the population described in this paragraph, the commissioner shall lower the

maximum eligibility level to the extent necessary to provide coverage to as many persons as possible within the program budget.

(3) The commissioner shall give at least 30 days' notice of the proposed change in maximum eligibility level to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters;

G. A person who is a noncitizen legally admitted to the United States to the extent that coverage is allowable by federal law if the person is:

(1) A woman during her pregnancy and up to 60 days following delivery; or

(2) A child under 21 years of age; and

H. No later than 180 days after the effective date of this paragraph, a person under 65 years of age who is not otherwise eligible for assistance under this chapter and who qualifies for medical assistance pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) when the person's income is at or below 133% plus 5% of the nonfarm income official poverty line for the applicable family size. The department shall provide such a person, at a minimum, the same scope of medical assistance as is provided to a person described in paragraph E.

Cost sharing, including copayments, for coverage established under this paragraph may not exceed the maximum allowable amounts authorized under section 3173-C, subsection 7.

No later than 90 days after the effective date of this paragraph, the department shall submit a state plan amendment to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ensuring MaineCare eligibility for people under 65 years of age who qualify for medical assistance pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII).

The department shall adopt rules, including emergency rules pursuant to Title 5, section 8054 if necessary, to implement this paragraph in a timely manner to ensure that the persons described in this paragraph are enrolled for and eligible to receive services no later than 180 days after the effective date of this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

For the purposes of this subsection, the "nonfarm income official poverty line" is that applicable to a family of the size involved, as defined by the federal Department of Health and Human Services and updated

annually in the Federal Register under authority of 42 United States Code, Section 9902(2). For purposes of this subsection, "program budget" means the amounts available from both federal and state sources to provide federally approved Medicaid services.

1-B. Funding. State funds necessary to implement subsection 1-C must include General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue allocations from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to the elderly low-cost drug program operated pursuant to section 254-D, including rebates received in that program from pharmaceutical manufacturers, that are no longer needed in that program as a result of the Medicaid waiver obtained pursuant to subsection 1-C.

1-C. Prescription drug waiver program. Except as provided in paragraph G, the department shall apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver or amend a pending or current waiver under the Medicaid program authorizing the department to use federal matching dollars to enhance the prescription drug benefits available to persons who qualify for the elderly low-cost drug program established under section 254-D. The program created pursuant to the waiver is the prescription drug waiver program, referred to in this subsection as the "program."

A. As funds permit, the department has the authority to establish income eligibility levels for the program up to and including 200% of the federal nonfarm income official poverty level, except that for individuals in households that spend at least 40% of income on unreimbursed direct medical expenses for prescription medications, the income eligibility level is increased by 25%.

B. To the extent reasonably achievable under the federal waiver process, the program must include the full range of prescription drugs provided under the Medicaid program on the effective date of this subsection and must limit copayments and cost sharing for participants. If cost sharing above the nominal cost sharing for the Medicaid program is determined to be necessary, the department may use a sliding scale to minimize the financial burden on lower-income participants.

C. Coverage under the program may not be less beneficial to persons who meet the qualifications of former section 254 than the coverage available under that section on September 30, 2001.

D. In determining enrollee benefits under the program, to the extent possible, the department shall give equitable treatment to coverage of prescription medications for cancer, Alzheimer's disease and behavioral health.

E. The department is authorized to provide funding for the program by using funds appropriated

or allocated to provide prescription drugs under sections 254-D and 258.

F. The department is authorized to amend the waiver or adjust program requirements as necessary to take advantage of enhanced federal matching funds that may become available.

G. If, upon thorough analysis, the department determines that a waiver under this subsection is not feasible or would not significantly benefit participants in the elderly low-cost drug program, the department may decide not to pursue the waiver. Within 30 days of a decision not to proceed with a waiver and before taking action on that decision, the department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and shall provide a detailed analysis of the reasons for reaching that decision.

1-D. Enrollment fee. The department may assess an annual enrollment fee of \$25 for participation in the MaineCare program for a family including a parent or caretaker relative of a child described in subsection 1, paragraph B or D when the family's income exceeds 150% of the nonfarm income official poverty line.

2. Resource test. The department may not apply a resource test to those children and pregnant women who are made eligible under this section, unless these persons also receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or United States Supplemental Security Income benefits.

3. Benefits authorized. The scope of medical assistance to be provided within this section ~~shall~~ **must** be that authorized by the Federal Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Public Law 99-509.

4. Transitional Medicaid. The department shall administer a program of transitional Medicaid to families receiving benefits under Section 1931 of the federal Social Security Act in accordance with 42 United States Code, Section 1396r-6 and this subsection. The amount, duration and scope of services provided under this subsection must be the same as that provided to a parent or caretaker relative of a child described in subsection 1, paragraph B or D.

A. The department shall provide transitional Medicaid for a 12-month extension period in accordance with 42 United States Code, Section 1396r-6, Subsection (a), Paragraph (5) to families whose eligibility for Medicaid assistance terminated due to an increase in earned income, an increase in hours of employment or a loss of a time-limited earnings disregard.

B. The department shall provide transitional Medicaid for 4 months to families whose eligibility for Medicaid assistance terminated due to an

increase in the amount of child support received by the family.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 256, §1; c. 284, Pt. NNNNNNN, §10; c. 290, §1; and c. 412, §2, is further amended to read:

B. The department may use funds, insofar as resources permit, provided under and in accordance with the United States Social Security Act or state funds appropriated for this purpose or a combination of state and federal funds to provide assistance to families under this chapter. In addition to assistance for families described in this subsection, funds must be expended for the following purposes:

(1) To continue the pass-through of the first \$50 per month of current child support collections and the exclusion of the \$50 pass-through from the budget tests and benefit calculations;

(2) To provide financial assistance to noncitizens legally admitted to the United States who are receiving assistance under this subsection as of July 1, 2011. Recipients of assistance under this subparagraph are limited to the categories of noncitizens who would be eligible for the TANF programs but for their status as aliens under PRWORA. Eligibility for the TANF program for these categories of noncitizens must be determined using the criteria applicable to other recipients of assistance from the TANF program. Any household receiving assistance as of July 1, 2011 may continue to receive assistance, as long as that household remains eligible, without regard to interruptions in coverage or gaps in eligibility for service. A noncitizen legally admitted to the United States who is neither receiving assistance on July 1, 2011 nor has an application pending for assistance on July 1, 2011 that is later approved is not eligible for financial assistance through a state-funded program unless that noncitizen is:

(a) Elderly or disabled, as described under the laws governing supplemental security income in 42 United States Code, Sections 1381 to 1383f (2010);

(b) A victim of domestic violence;

(c) Experiencing other hardship, such as time necessary to obtain proper work documentation, as defined by the department by rule. Rules adopted by the department under this division are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; or

(d) Unemployed but has obtained proper work documentation, as defined by the department by rule. Rules adopted by the department under this division are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A;

(3) To provide benefits to 2-parent families with children using the same eligibility requirements as apply to families headed by a single custodial parent or caretaker relative;

(4) To provide an assistance program for needy children, 19 to 21 years of age, who are in full-time attendance in secondary school. The program is operated for those individuals who qualify for TANF under the United States Social Security Act, except that they fail to meet the age requirement, and is also operated for the parent or caretaker relative of those individuals. Except for the age requirement, all provisions of TANF, including the standard of need and the amount of assistance, apply to the program established pursuant to this subparagraph;

(5) To provide assistance for a pregnant woman who is otherwise eligible for assistance under this chapter, except that she has no dependents under 19 years of age. An individual is eligible for the monthly benefit for one eligible person if the medically substantiated expected date of the birth of her child is not more than 90 days following the date the benefit is received;

(6) To provide a special housing allowance for TANF families whose shelter expenses for rent, mortgage or similar payments, homeowners insurance and property taxes equal or exceed 50% of their monthly income. The special housing allowance is limited to \$300 per month for each family. For purposes of this subparagraph, "monthly income" means the total of the TANF monthly benefit and all income countable under the TANF program, plus child support received by the family, excluding the \$50 pass-through payment;

(7) In determining benefit levels for TANF recipients who have earnings from employment, the department shall disregard from monthly earnings the following:

(a) One hundred and eight dollars;

(b) Fifty percent of the remaining earnings that are less than the federal poverty level; and

(c) All actual child care costs necessary for work, except that the department may

limit the child care disregard to \$175 per month per child or \$200 per month per child under 2 years of age or with special needs;

~~(7-A) In determining eligibility and benefit levels, the department may apply a gross income test only to applicants and not to recipients;~~

(7-C) In determining financial eligibility and benefit levels for TANF applicants and TANF recipients, the department shall deduct the income less any applicable income disregards from the standard of need and may not apply any other income test;

(8) In cases when the TANF recipient has no child care cost, the monthly TANF benefit is the maximum payment level or the difference between the countable earnings and the standard of need established by rule adopted by the department, whichever is lower;

(9) In cases when the TANF recipient has child care costs, the department shall determine a total benefit package, including TANF cash assistance, determined in accordance with subparagraph (7) and additional child care assistance, as provided by rule, necessary to cover the TANF recipient's actual child care costs up to the maximum amount specified in section 3782-A, subsection 5, paragraph B. The benefit amount must be paid as provided in this subparagraph.

(a) Before the first month in which child care assistance is available to an ASPIRE-TANF recipient under this paragraph and periodically thereafter, the department shall notify the recipient of the total benefit package and the following options of the recipient: to receive the total benefit package directly; or to have the department pay the recipient's child care assistance directly to the designated child care provider for the recipient and pay the balance of the total benefit package to the recipient.

(b) If an ASPIRE-TANF recipient notifies the department that the recipient chooses to receive the child care assistance directly, the department shall pay the total benefit package to the recipient.

(c) If an ASPIRE-TANF recipient does not respond or notifies the department of the choice to have the child care assistance paid directly to the child care provider from the total benefit package, the department shall pay the child care assistance directly to the designated child care

provider for the recipient. The department shall pay the balance of the total benefit package to the recipient;

(10) Child care assistance under this paragraph must be paid by the department in a prompt manner that permits an ASPIRE-TANF recipient to access child care necessary for work; and

(11) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375 to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subparagraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§8, ¶A, as amended by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. OO, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3769-B, as amended by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. S, §4, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §3790, sub-§§3-A and 3-B are enacted to read:

3-A. Coordination with state educational institutions and programs. The department shall deem a referral from an educational institution or program that is part of the University of Maine System; the Maine Community College System; Jobs for Maine's Graduates, established in Title 20-A, chapter 226; an adult education program established in Title 20-A, chapter 315; or the career centers established by the Department of Labor as an application for the Parents as Scholars Program as long as, in accordance with department rules, it is submitted by a qualified person at the institution or program on a form provided by the department for this purpose and signed by the prospective student expressing a desire to enroll in the Parents as Scholars Program. The department shall notify these institutions and programs of the opportunity to refer prospective students in accordance with this subsection and make available to prospective students and these institutions and programs referral forms to serve as an application for purposes of this subsection.

3-B. Campus-based student support and navigation; working group. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall convene a working group to make recommendations to the department regarding the most effective means to establish or supplement personalized professional guidance, support and navigation services for participants in the Parents as Scholars Program in order to promote program completion and student success. The working group includes the Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designees; the President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designees; members of advocacy or other organizations with expertise in policy related to supports and other assistance needed to help adults with low incomes successfully achieve higher education creden-

tials or degrees; low-income students currently or previously enrolled in the University of Maine System or Maine Community College System; and other members determined appropriate by the commissioner. The working group shall also make recommendations to the department as to how the department may best contribute, through administration of the Parents as Scholars Program and the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program established under chapter 1054-C, to the goal established in Title 26, section 2006, subsection 1, paragraph K. The department shall provide up to \$250,000 annually to educational institutions or programs identified under subsection 3-A to implement services identified to achieve the purposes under this section. These funds must be provided under the TANF block grant available under Title IV-A of the United States Social Security Act. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall convene the first meeting of the working group no later than November 1, 2019.

Sec. 7. Working group to improve performance of Department of Health and Human Services programs and systems to alleviate poverty, food insecurity and hardship. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee shall convene a working group to review and make recommendations to improve the operations of systems and programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services providing services to persons in need. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall convene the first meeting of the working group no later than November 1, 2019.

1. Members. The working group consists of at least 12 members, in addition to department staff as the commissioner determines appropriate, including persons that now receive or previously received assistance from department core safety net programs; members of advocacy organizations with expertise in policy or legal matters related to programs administered by the department; providers of health care or social services serving persons receiving assistance from the department; and persons with technological expertise who could assist with recommendations related to creating efficiencies in program enrollment, recertification and improved program integration. The working group may create subgroups to work on specific issues or initiatives and may include persons who are not working group members.

2. Duties. In developing its recommendations under this section, the working group shall:

A. Review opportunities to simplify operations and improve business processes that facilitate cross-enrollment and linkages connecting eligible persons enrolled in one program to other core services available to them related to health care, nutrition and help meeting basic needs;

B. Examine the potential for improved electronic data sharing between department programs to streamline and promote efficiencies in verification processes required for eligibility and recertification determinations;

C. Review state policy and procedural options available under federal law to improve or increase access to services to reduce food insecurity and improve the health and well-being of persons in the State living in poverty;

D. Investigate ways to transform the department into a more holistic and person-centered and better coordinated human services system with an approach that puts the varying needs of persons and families first and ensures more efficient access, clarity of information and respectful interactions;

E. Determine the extent to which the department could facilitate enrollment for families and persons receiving its services in programs administered by other agencies of State Government, including low-income home energy assistance benefits and the property tax fairness credit under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 5219-KK; and

F. Make recommendations related to improvement targets for reduced levels of poverty and food insecurity and improved health outcomes to be considered by the department as it establishes improvement targets pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3109, subsection 3.

3. Report. No later than February 15, 2020, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall submit a report including the recommendations developed pursuant to this section, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

Sec. 8. Funding. Any additional costs to the State resulting from the implementation of this Act must be paid from funds provided to the Department of Health and Human Services under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant available under Title IV-A of the United States Social Security Act or from resources representing the State's maintenance of effort in order to qualify for federal funds and may not result in an additional net cost to the General Fund.

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment 0146

Initiative: Provides allocations for expected additional participants in the Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment program.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$3,010,368	\$4,013,824
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$3,010,368	\$4,013,824

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138

Initiative: Provides allocations for campus-based student support and navigation.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$187,500	\$250,000
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$187,500	\$250,000

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 0138

Initiative: Provides allocations due to the elimination of the gross income test.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$575,060	\$766,746
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$575,060	\$766,746

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2019-20	2020-21
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$3,772,928	\$5,030,570
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$3,772,928	\$5,030,570

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 486
S.P. 52 - L.D. 165**

An Act To Prohibit the Use of Handheld Phones and Devices While Driving

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §20, as amended by PL 2011, c. 131, §1, is further amended to read:

§20. Provide for collection of fines and fees from money collected

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court shall plan and implement arrangements for the collection of overdue fines and fees due the state courts, the costs of which may be paid from money collected. These arrangements may include but are not limited to: Employing special project clerks, assistants and other staff; contracting with state agencies; contracting for special or private debt collection services; purchasing necessary equipment; and compensating state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies for services provided.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court may implement arrangements for the use of fines and fees collected under Title 29-A, section 2121 to pay the costs of processing traffic violations under that section and handling the fines or fees. These arrangements may include employing an assistant clerk.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §4210-G is enacted to read:
§4210-G. Supplemental Transportation Fund

1. Fund created. The Supplemental Transportation Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund in the Department of Transportation.

2. Use of funds. Money deposited into the fund may be used by the Department of Transportation for transportation-related projects and services.

3. Source of funds. Money deposited in the fund includes, but is not limited to, fine revenue transferred into the fund pursuant to Title 29-A, section 2121, subsection 4. The Supplemental Transportation Fund may accept funds from other sources.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§§26-C, 35-B and 80-B are enacted to read:

26-C. Handheld electronic device. "Handheld electronic device" means any handheld electronic device or portable electronic device that is not part of the operating equipment of the motor vehicle, including but not limited to an electronic game, a device for sending or receiving electronic mail, a text messaging device or a computer. "Handheld electronic device" does not include a: