

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

December 2021

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*Committee member for a portion of the session

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

awarded funds, how much each clinic received and how the grant funding was used by the clinics. The committee is authorized to submit legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 78 An Act To Protect Children from Extreme Poverty by Preserving Children's Access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Benefits

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 97 amends eligibility for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Current law requires the Department of Health and Human Services to terminate assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to the entire family, including children, if the children's parent fails to comply with the requirements of the family contract for a period of 90 days or for any subsequent failure. Public Law 2021, chapter 97 amends that provision to terminate benefits for the noncomplying parent but continues to provide assistance to the children and complying parents. The law also requires the department to submit an interim and a final report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the implementation of the removal of the full family unit sanction.

LD 81 An Act To Ensure the Safety of Children Experiencing Homelessness by Extending Shelter Placement Periods and Amending Licensing Requirements for Emergency Shelters

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 98 amends the laws governing facilities for children. It amends the definition of “emergency children's shelter” to extend placement from 30 consecutive days or less to 90 consecutive days or less, and it amends the definition of “shelter for homeless children” to extend the limit on overnight lodging and supervision from 30 consecutive overnights to 90 consecutive overnights.

The law also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rule Chapter 9: Rules for the Licensing of Emergency Shelters for Children to make it consistent with the notification requirements for facilities licensed under rule Chapter 8: Rules for the Licensure of Shelters for Homeless Children and specifically to allow the admission of a child into care for up to three hours without first notifying the child's guardian. It also directs the department to amend its rule Chapter 9: Rules for the Licensing of Emergency Shelters for Children to require a facility to allow the admission of a child into care for up to 48 hours without the permission of the child's guardian.