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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 366, L.D. 834, “An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income”

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3271, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §65, is further amended to read:

**2.** The department, to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder, shall establish standard levels of state supplemental income benefits for blind, disabled and elderly people. The benefits must be provided under a modified flat benefit system, and may vary by ~~marital status, and by~~ living arrangements to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder. The benefits may not be based on individual budgeted need and may not vary by category or geographical area. Benefits for a couple, ~~except as provided under section 3273, subsection 1, paragraph B,~~ must be equal to the sum of the amount of benefit for ~~an~~ each individual ~~and 50% of the benefit for an individual in the couple.~~

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3272, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

**1. Standard.** The standard utilized to determine need ~~shall~~ must be the current annual budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual as most recently determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or budgets ~~which~~ that are consistent with such a budget at the lower level of living, taking into account budget variances by ~~marital status and~~ living arrangements ~~permitted~~ permitted pursuant to Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

**Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 770, §3, is further amended to read:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           **1. Combined benefits.** The department shall take action, as necessary, to ~~assure~~  
2 ensure that, within the limits of available funds, a state supplemental income benefit, when  
3 combined with a federal supplemental security income benefit, ~~shall consist~~ consists of  
4 such amounts that the sum ~~shall~~ must:

5           A. Increase the minimum monthly federal payment standard, in addition to that  
6 established pursuant to federal law, by an amount of at least \$8 \$65 per month for an  
7 individual ~~and \$12 per month for a couple~~;

8           B. For an individual who resides in an adult foster home or boarding home, having a  
9 contract with the department for the provision of services to eligible residents, or  
10 nursing home, as defined in section 1812-A, in addition to the benefits provided ~~herein~~  
11 under paragraphs A and C, provide sufficient income to allow the individual for  
12 personal needs an amount equal to at least \$30 a month, plus an amount sufficient to  
13 meet the monthly per resident payment rate as established by the department of the  
14 adult foster home or boarding home in which the individual resides; and

15           C. For a beneficiary who resides in a living arrangement ~~which~~ that meets a living  
16 arrangement classification established by the department, but who does not reside in  
17 an adult foster home or boarding home, in addition to the minimum federal payment  
18 level as adjusted pursuant to paragraph A, provide, based on such living arrangement  
19 classification, an amount not to exceed \$42 per month for an individual ~~and \$63 per~~  
20 ~~month for a couple~~.

21           **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§6, ¶B-1**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 528, Pt. E, §25  
22 and affected by Pt. RRR and enacted by c. 591, Pt. E, §25, is amended to read:

23           B-1. On July 1st of every year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state  
24 supplemental income benefit authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the  
25 amount of the minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that  
26 time must be increased by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the  
27 United States Consumer Price Index for April 1st of that year over the level of the  
28 Index for April 1st of the previous year plus any additional percentage amount as is  
29 recommended annually by the department. Such an increase may be made only insofar  
30 as appropriations are available. In determining the additional percentage amount,  
31 consideration must be given to the goal of reaching, within a reasonable time, a benefit  
32 level equal to or consistent with the current budget at the lower level of living for a  
33 ~~retired couple~~ an individual established by the United States Department of Labor,  
34 Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine.

35           If, on April 1st of any year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state supplemental  
36 payment authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the amount of the  
37 minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that time, is equal  
38 to or exceeds the amount resulting from 12 divided into the current annual budget at  
39 the lower level of living for a ~~retired couple~~ an individual as most recently established  
40 by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland,  
41 Maine, or taking into account variances by ~~marital status and~~ living arrangements as  
42 established by the department, a budget that is not inconsistent with that annual budget  
43 divided by 12, the increase provided on July 1st next following is limited to the  
44 percentage rise in the Consumer Price Index.

45           ~~This paragraph takes effect July 1, 1993.~~

