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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” 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	\$0	\$2,800,000

Office for Family Independence Z020

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

3	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
4	All Other	\$0	\$450,000
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$450,000</u>

7			
8	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
9	DEPARTMENT OF		
10	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
11			
12	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$3,250,000
13			
14	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,250,000</u>

15
16 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
17 number to read consecutively.

18 **SUMMARY**

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

28 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

29 **(See attached)**