

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

H.P. 703 - L.D. 1081

An Act to Support Access to General Assistance at Municipal General Assistance Offices and Designated Places

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4304, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 575, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Local office. There must be in each municipality a general assistance office or designated place where any person may apply obtain an application for general assistance during the municipality's regular business hours. ~~Notice must be posted of these times, the name of the overseer available to take applications in an emergency at all other times, the fact that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24 hours and the department's toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations in accordance with section 4321.~~ A municipality shall designate the daily hours when an application for general assistance will be accepted and processed. These designated hours may not total less than 50% of the municipality's regular business hours.

At all times the local office or designated place must display in a prominent location a posted notice that includes the following information:

- A. The regular business hours when an application may be obtained;
- B. The daily business hours when an application may be accepted and processed;
- C. The name of the overseer available to take applications in an emergency at all times, including times outside the daily business hours under paragraph B;
- D. The fact that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24 hours; and
- E. The department's toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations in accordance with section 4321.