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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
129TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1018, L.D. 1403, Bill, “An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Eligibility and Reimbursement”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement'**

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

**'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. SSSS, §1, is further amended to read:

**1. Departmental reimbursement.** When a municipality incurs net general assistance costs in any fiscal year prior to July 1, 2015 in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, as determined by the State Tax Assessor in the statement filed as provided in Title 36, section 381, the Department of Health and Human Services shall reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures when the department finds that the municipality has been in compliance with all requirements of this chapter. If a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds distributed from any municipally-controlled trust fund that must otherwise be considered for purposes of this chapter, the department shall reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3% of the amount in excess of such expenditures when the department finds that the municipality has otherwise been in compliance with all requirements of this chapter.

The department shall reimburse each municipality and each Indian tribe 70% of the direct costs incurred by that municipality or tribe on or after July 1, 2015 and prior to July 1, 2020 for the general assistance program granted by that municipality or tribe. For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in section 411, subsection 8-A.

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1-D** is enacted to read:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 **1-D. Departmental reimbursement.** Beginning July 1, 2020, the department shall  
2 reimburse each municipality for the direct costs incurred by that municipality for the  
3 general assistance program granted by that municipality if the department finds that the  
4 municipality was in compliance with all requirements of this chapter during the fiscal  
5 year for which reimbursement is sought. The department shall reimburse to each  
6 municipality an amount equal to 70% of all direct general assistance granted by the  
7 municipality equal to or below .0003, and 90% of all direct general assistance granted by  
8 the municipality in excess of .0003, of that municipality's most recent state valuation  
9 relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being issued, as determined by  
10 the State Tax Assessor in the statement filed as provided in Title 36, section 381.

11 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1-E** is enacted to read:

12 **1-E. Reimbursement to Indian tribes.** Beginning July 1, 2020, the department  
13 shall reimburse each Indian tribe for 100% of all direct costs for general assistance  
14 granted by the Indian tribe if the department finds that the Indian tribe was in compliance  
15 with all requirements of this chapter during the fiscal year for which reimbursement is  
16 sought. For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in  
17 section 411, subsection 8-A.

18 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
19 allocations are made.

20 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

21 **General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns 0130**

22 Initiative: Provides funding for a 90% reimbursement rate for general assistance  
23 expenditures incurred that are in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent state  
24 valuation in any fiscal year.

25	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
26	All Other	\$1,182,268	\$1,182,268
27			
28	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$1,182,268</u>	<u>\$1,182,268</u>
29			

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, removes the section  
32 of the bill relating to presumptive eligibility. It also grants 100% reimbursement for  
33 general assistance costs to Indian tribes. It clarifies that the municipality's most recent  
34 state valuation rather than the all state valuation is used for calculating when a  
35 municipality begins to be reimbursed 90% for general assistance costs and that the  
36 reimbursement is for gross costs rather than net costs. It establishes that the new  
37 departmental reimbursement to municipalities begins July 1, 2020.

38 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

39 (See attached)