



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 784

S.P. 343

In Senate, February 21, 2023

**An Act to Establish Welfare Work Requirements for Able-bodied
Adults Without Dependents**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative JAVNER of Chester and
Senators: HARRINGTON of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington,
STEWART of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MASON of Lisbon.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§18** is enacted to read:

3 **18. Work requirement for certain able-bodied adults without dependents.** The
4 department shall implement a work requirement and time-limited assistance provisions for
5 able-bodied adults who are 18 years of age or older and under 50 years of age with no
6 dependents consistent with Section 6(o) of the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 in
7 effect on March 15, 2022. Food assistance for an able-bodied adult who is 18 years of age
8 or older and under 50 years of age with no dependents in the household is limited to 3
9 months in a 36-month period if the adult does not meet the requirements of Section 6(o) of
10 the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 in effect on March 15, 2022. The department
11 shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection
12 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §2, is amended to
14 read:

15 **2. Residence.** Is living in the State at the date of the application; and

16 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3174, sub-§3**, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §160, is
17 amended to read:

18 **3. Inmate.** Is not an inmate of any public institution, except as a patient in a medical
19 institution or an inmate during the month in which the applicant becomes an inmate only
20 to the extent permitted by federal law, but an inmate of such an institution may file
21 application for aid and any allowance made thereon must take effect and be paid when the
22 applicant ceases to be an inmate of the institution; and

23 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3174, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

24 **4. Work requirement for certain able-bodied adults without dependents.**
25 Complies with a work requirement and time-limited assistance provisions for able-bodied
26 adults who are 18 years of age or older and under 50 years of age with no dependents
27 consistent with Section 6(o) of the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 in effect on
28 March 15, 2022. Benefits under this chapter for an able-bodied adult who is 18 years of
29 age or older and under 50 years of age with no dependents in the household is limited to 3
30 months in a 36-month period if the adult does not meet requirements of Section 6(o) of the
31 federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 in effect on March 15, 2022. The department shall
32 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
33 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

34 **Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §4316-A, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

35 **6. Work requirement for certain able-bodied adults without dependents.** A
36 municipality shall implement a work requirement and time-limited assistance provisions
37 for able-bodied adults who are 18 years of age or older and under 50 years of age with no
38 dependents consistent with Section 6(o) of the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 in
39 effect on March 15, 2022. Benefits under a general assistance program for an able-bodied
40 adult who is 18 years of age or older and under 50 years of age with no dependents in the
41 household is limited to 3 months in a 36-month period if the adult does not meet
42 requirements of Section 6(o) of the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 in effect on
43 March 15, 2022. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules

