

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

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

**'An Act To Prohibit the Use of TANF Benefits for the Purchase of Alcohol and Tobacco Products and To Allow for the Random Audit of Cash Expenditures'**

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

**'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3763, sub-§§11 and 12** are enacted to read:

**11. Prohibited purchases.** A recipient of TANF may not use TANF cash benefits for the purchase of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products. If the department determines in an audit pursuant to subsection 12 that a recipient of TANF has used TANF cash benefits to purchase items prohibited under this subsection, the department shall deduct the amount of the transaction from the recipient's benefits under the electronic benefits transfer system for the month subsequent to the determination of the prohibited purchases.

**12. Retention of receipts for 12 months; random audits by department.** A recipient of TANF shall retain, for 12 months, a receipt for every cash transaction the recipient makes using the cash benefits of an electronic benefits transfer system card, including receipts for purchases made with cash withdrawn from the electronic benefits transfer system card. The department may randomly audit the receipts for the period from January 1st to June 30th or July 1st to December 31st, whichever period is most recent, for up to 1% of TANF recipients each year.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

**Division of Audit Z157**

Initiative: Provides funding for 2 Auditor II positions and one Accounting Associate I position and related costs to audit Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. Assumes having to complete between 85 and 90 audit cases annually.

GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3,000	3,000
Personal Services	\$84,502	\$115,739
All Other	\$5,304	\$7,071
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$89,806	\$122,810

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Personal Services	\$56,335	\$77,159
All Other	\$3,536	\$4,714
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,871</b>	<b>\$81,873</b>

<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$89,806</b>	<b>\$122,810</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$59,871</b>	<b>\$81,873</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$149,677</b>	<b>\$204,683</b>

## SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It prohibits recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, benefits from using benefits to purchase alcoholic beverages or tobacco products. The amendment also requires recipients of TANF to retain receipts for cash transactions, including those made with cash withdrawn from the electronic benefits transfer system card, for 12 months. The Department of Health and Human Services may audit the receipts for a 6-month period for up to 1% of all TANF recipients to determine if a recipient has spent TANF cash benefits on prohibited items. If the Department of Health and Human Services determines that such a purchase has been made, the department is required to deduct that amount from the recipient's TANF benefits for the following month.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
 (See attached)