



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 389

H.P. 264

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

**An Act To Bring Fairness to General Assistance Programs by
Changing the Method of Municipal Reimbursement**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PARRY of Arundel.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and
Representatives: BENNETT of Kennebunk, CHASE of Wells, HARVELL of Farmington,
LIBBY of Waterboro, McCLELLAN of Raymond, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SIROCKI of
Scarborough, WILLETTE of Mapleton.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. AAA, §7
3 and PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 **1. Departmental reimbursement.** The department shall reimburse each
5 municipality or Indian tribe for a portion of the direct costs of paying benefits through its
6 general assistance program if the department finds that the municipality or Indian tribe
7 was in compliance with all requirements of this chapter during the fiscal year for which
8 reimbursement is sought.

9 A. The amount of reimbursement for a municipality is the greater of:

10 (1) Fifty percent of all general assistance granted by that municipality; and

11 (2) Three dollars multiplied by the population of the municipality as determined
12 by the most recent Federal Decennial Census.

13 B. For an Indian tribe that incurs net general assistance costs in any fiscal year in
14 excess of .0003 of that tribe's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal
15 year for which reimbursement is being issued, as determined by the State Tax
16 Assessor in the statement filed as provided in Title 36, section 381, the department
17 shall reimburse the Indian tribe for 90% of the amount by which the tribe's general
18 assistance direct costs exceed reimbursement under paragraph A. In addition, the
19 department shall reimburse the tribe for 10% of all general assistance granted by that
20 tribe.

21 As used in this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in section 411,
22 subsection 8-A.

23 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 9, Pt. U, §9, is
24 further amended to read:

25 **2. Submission of reports.** Municipalities and Indian tribes, as defined in subsection
26 1, shall submit monthly reports as follows of general assistance benefits paid on forms
27 provided by the department.

28 ~~A. For purposes of this section, those municipalities that received reimbursement at~~
29 ~~90% during the previous fiscal year of the State and those municipalities that expect~~
30 ~~to receive reimbursement at 90% during the current fiscal year of the State must~~
31 ~~submit monthly reports on forms provided by the department.~~

32 ~~B. Those municipalities that did not receive reimbursement at 90% during the~~
33 ~~previous fiscal year and do not expect to receive reimbursement at 90% for the~~
34 ~~current fiscal year must submit quarterly or semiannual reports on forms provided by~~
35 ~~the department.~~

36 SUMMARY

37 This bill changes the reimbursement of general assistance to municipalities so that
38 they receive either a 50% reimbursement rate from the Department of Health and Human

1 Services or a block grant equal to \$3.00 multiplied by the population of the municipality,
2 whichever is the greater. It repeals the requirement that municipalities incurring net
3 general assistance costs in excess of .0003 of the municipality's most recent state
4 valuation receive a 90% reimbursement rate but maintains this reimbursement rate for the
5 Indian tribes.