



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 477

H.P. 340

House of Representatives, February 9, 2017

An Act To Prevent Long-term Welfare Dependency

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SANDERSON of Chelsea.
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, CEBRA of Naples, CHACE of Durham, HANINGTON of
Lincoln, HANLEY of Pittston, SAMPSON of Alfred, VACHON of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3763, sub-§8**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 522, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **8. Alternative aid.** The department shall provide alternative aid to applicants who
5 seek short-term assistance in order to obtain or retain employment. The applicants must
6 meet the eligibility requirements established by rule adopted pursuant to section 3762,
7 subsection 3, paragraph A. The department shall adopt rules requiring an applicant for
8 alternative aid who is seeking to obtain employment to participate in job search activities
9 consistent with the job search activities for participants of the ASPIRE-TANF program
10 adopted pursuant to section 3788, subsection 9. The alternative aid may not exceed 3
11 times the value of the monthly TANF grant for which the applicant's family is eligible.
12 An eligible applicant may receive alternative aid no more than once during any 12-month
13 period. If the family reapplies for TANF within 3 months of receiving alternative aid, the
14 family shall repay any alternative aid received in excess of the amount that the family
15 would have received on TANF. The method of repayment must be the same as that used
16 for the repayment of unintentional overpayments in the TANF program.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules
19 requiring unemployed applicants for alternative aid who are seeking employment to
20 participate in job search activities that are consistent with the job search activities for
21 participants of the ASPIRE-TANF program.