



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 864

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H.P. 638

House of Representatives, February 19, 2019

### **An Act To Make Whole Family Support Available Statewide**

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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 STEWART of Presque Isle.  
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and  
Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, GRIFFIN of Levant, MATLACK of St. George,  
STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: CARSON of Cumberland, CLAXTON of Androscoggin,  
GRATWICK of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5324, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

3 **4. Family support program.** A community action agency designated by the  
4 division to carry out the purposes of this chapter pursuant to subsection 1 shall establish a  
5 support program for families in the agency's service area to assist parents with children as  
6 they pursue stable employment, pursue education intended to lead to employment or  
7 otherwise pursue self-sufficiency. The support program must serve families with  
8 incomes at or below 200% of the poverty level or families that are determined by the  
9 community action agency to be severely at risk of falling below an income at or below  
10 200% of the poverty level due to substance use disorder or another risk factor. The  
11 community action agency shall measure the effect of the support provided under this  
12 subsection using a matrix designed to measure self-sufficiency and annually, by January  
13 15th, report to the department regarding the effect of the community action agency's  
14 program. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection, including, but  
15 not limited to, rules regarding eligibility and the identification of risk factors. Rules  
16 adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
17 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

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

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

21 **Purchased Social Services 0228**

22 Initiative: Provides funding for community action agencies to establish support programs  
23 for families to serve parents with children as they pursue stable employment, pursue  
24 education intended to lead to employment or otherwise pursue self-sufficiency in  
25 accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5324, subsection 4.

|    |                     |                    |                    |
|----|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 26 |                     |                    |                    |
| 27 | <b>GENERAL FUND</b> | <b>2019-20</b>     | <b>2020-21</b>     |
| 28 | All Other           | \$2,250,000        | \$2,250,000        |
| 29 |                     |                    |                    |
| 30 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL  | <u>\$2,250,000</u> | <u>\$2,250,000</u> |

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill requires community action agencies to establish support programs to serve  
33 families to assist parents with children as they pursue stable employment, pursue  
34 education intended to lead to employment or otherwise pursue self-sufficiency. The bill  
35 also provides funding for community action agencies to establish the support programs.