



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 778

S.P. 337

In Senate, February 21, 2023

**An Act Regarding Work Requirements for Able-bodied Adults
Without Dependents Under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance
Program**

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 STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, GUERIN of Penobscot, LYFORD of
Penobscot, MOORE of Washington.

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. Restriction on federal waiver applications.** Beginning January 1, 2024, the
4 department may not request any waivers pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section
5 2015(o)(4).

6 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3104, sub-§19** is enacted to read:

7 **19. Good-cause exemptions; limitations.** Beginning January 1, 2024, any able-
8 bodied adult without dependents must comply with federal work requirements to qualify
9 for SNAP benefits pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o) unless the individual
10 qualifies for a good-cause exemption pursuant to 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(3).
11 The department may not grant any additional good-cause exemptions that may be allowable
12 under 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(6)(E). For purposes of this subsection, "able-
13 bodied adult without dependents" does not include an elderly or disabled member as
14 defined in 7 United States Code, Section 2012(j).

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill, beginning January 1, 2024, prohibits the Department of Health and Human
17 Services from requesting certain waivers and exemptions under the federal Supplemental
18 Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP. It prohibits the department from applying for a
19 waiver under 7 United States Code, Section 2015(o)(4), which allows for waivers in
20 specific geographical areas that have unemployment over 10% or with insufficient jobs
21 available. It also prohibits the department from providing exemptions to work
22 requirements for up to 12% of individuals receiving SNAP benefits pursuant to 7 United
23 States Code, Section 2015(o)(6)(E).