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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 252, L.D. 722, Bill, “An Act To Strengthen Penalties for Abuse of General Assistance”

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

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4315, first ¶, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. AAA, §9, is further amended to read:

Whoever knowingly and willfully makes any false representation of a material fact to the overseer of any municipality or to the department or its agents for the purpose of causing that or any other person to be granted assistance by the municipality or by the State is guilty of a Class E crime and shall reimburse the municipality for that assistance. Further assistance may be denied until that person reimburses the municipality for the assistance or enters into a written agreement, which must be reasonable under the circumstances, to reimburse the municipality or that person has been ineligible for assistance for a period of 120 days and is guilty of a Class E crime, whichever period is longer.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4315, 3rd ¶, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. AAA, §9, is further amended to read:

If the overseer of any municipality or the fair hearing officer finds that a recipient made a false representation to the overseer in violation of this section, that recipient is required to reimburse the municipality for any assistance rendered for which that recipient was ineligible ~~and~~. The recipient is ineligible from receiving further assistance for a period of 120 days or until that person reimburses the municipality for the assistance or enters into a written agreement, which must be reasonable under the circumstances, to reimburse that municipality, whichever period is longer.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment provides that a person who makes a false representation of a material fact to obtain municipal general assistance is ineligible

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1 to receive further assistance either for a period of 120 days or until reimbursement is
2 made or that person enters into a written agreement, which must be reasonable, to
3 reimburse the municipality, whichever period is longer. The amendment also provides
4 that the overseer of municipal general assistance may make a determination that a person
5 has made a false representation of a material fact to obtain general assistance.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)