

Date:

(Filing No. S-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 519, L.D. 1282, “An Act to Streamline Income Verification Requests for Income Supplementation and Assistance Programs”

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

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3110 is enacted to read:

§3110. Authority to share information

1. Information provided upon request. Upon request, the department shall provide timely access electronically to income records and program enrollment information of a recipient of assistance under this subtitle to state agencies, quasi-state agencies or other entities for purposes of the administration of and application for the low-income home energy assistance program described in Title 30-A, section 4722, subsection 1, paragraph W; the low-income assistance program described in Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2; a local, state or federal subsidized housing program; and an energy efficiency program administered by an entity approved by the department or any other entity or program that, in the judgment of the department, provides services or resources that substantially promote the health and well-being of recipients of its services.

2. Authorization required. Before providing any information pursuant to this section, the department must receive express authorization from the recipient agreeing to the release of that information in accordance with federal and state law. The department shall develop a simplified process to give the recipient the choice of authorizing the release of information pursuant to this section at the time of application or recertification for assistance under this subtitle or at another time of the individual's choice.

3. Maintenance fees. The department may charge a reasonable annual maintenance fee to an entity that receives information pursuant to this section.

4. Duties of recipients of information. Records and program enrollment information obtained pursuant to this section may be used only in accordance with federal and state law and this section. An entity that receives records is responsible for the protection and security of personally identifiable information contained in the records.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **5. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
 2 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
 3 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, except that rules adopted pursuant to subsection 3 are major
 4 substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5 **Sec. 2. Stakeholder consultation.** Before establishing a plan or issuing a request
 6 for proposals to develop the technology to implement the provisions of this Act, but no
 7 later than November 1, 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services shall convene
 8 the agencies and organizations administering programs listed in the Maine Revised
 9 Statutes, Title 22, section 3110, subsection 1, the Office of the Public Advocate and any
 10 other interested parties as determined by the department to determine the means of
 11 delivering the information required under this Act and discuss whether temporary measures
 12 may be available to facilitate the exchange of information necessary to determine eligibility
 13 for the programs prior to the full implementation of this Act.

14 **Sec. 3. Rules.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules as
 15 required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3110, subsection 5 no later than
 16 October 1, 2025.

17 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 18 allocations are made.

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

20 **Office for Family Independence Z020**

21 Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations for required technology.

22 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
23 All Other	\$0	\$30,823
24		
25 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$30,823

26 **Office for Family Independence Z020**

27 Initiative: Provides a one-time appropriation for required technology development and
 28 testing.

29 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
30 All Other	\$0	\$1,217,885
31		
32 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,217,885

33
 34 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,**
 35 **DEPARTMENT OF**
 36 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

37	2023-24	2024-25
38 GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,217,885
39 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$30,823
40		
41 DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,248,708

42

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
2 number to read consecutively.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill. It directs the Department of Health and Human
5 Services to electronically provide income records and program enrollment information of
6 recipients of the department's income supplementation and assistance programs when
7 requested by entities for purposes of facilitating administration of the Low Income Home
8 Energy Assistance Program; the Low Income Assistance Program; any local, state or
9 federal subsidized housing program; and energy assistance programs approved by the
10 department and any other entity that, in the judgment of the department, provides services
11 or resources that promote the health and well-being of recipients of department services.
12 Recipients of services must expressly authorize the release of any information provided.
13 Records released may be used only in accordance with federal and state law, and any
14 entities receiving information are responsible for the protection and security of personally
15 identifiable information contained in the records. Rules must be adopted by October 1,
16 2025. The department must consult with stakeholders before developing a system for the
17 release of this information.

18 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

19 **(See attached)**