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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

128TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 363, L.D. 1109, Bill, “An Act To Improve General Assistance Reimbursements”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Establish Homelessness as an Emergency in the General Assistance Laws'

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

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4301, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Homelessness. "Homelessness" means a situation in which a person or household has no permanent or safe housing including when a person or household is:

- A. Living in a place that is not fit for human habitation;
- B. Living in an emergency shelter;
- C. Living in temporary housing, including but not limited to a hotel, motel, campground, unlicensed campsite or rehabilitation facility;
- D. Exiting a hospital or institution licensed under chapter 405 or a correctional facility where the person or household resided for up to 90 days if the person or household was in an emergency shelter or a place not fit for human habitation before entering the hospital, institution or correctional facility;
- E. Losing the person's or household's primary nighttime residence and lacking the resources or support networks to remain in that residence; or
- F. Fleeing or attempting to flee violence and has no other residence.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4308, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c. 45, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Emergencies. A person, including a person experiencing or facing homelessness, who does not have sufficient resources to provide one or more basic necessities in an

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1 emergency is eligible for emergency general assistance, even when that applicant has
2 been found ineligible for nonemergency general assistance, except as provided in this
3 subsection.

4 A. A person who is currently disqualified from general assistance for a violation of
5 section 4315, 4316-A or 4317 is ineligible for emergency assistance under this
6 subsection.

7 B. Municipalities may by standards adopted in municipal ordinances restrict the
8 disbursement of emergency assistance to alleviate emergency situations to the extent
9 that those situations could not have been averted by the applicant's use of income and
10 resources for basic necessities. The person requesting assistance shall provide
11 evidence of income and resources for the applicable time period.

12 A municipality may provide emergency assistance when the municipality determines that
13 an emergency is imminent and that failure to provide assistance may result in undue
14 hardship and unnecessary costs.'

15 SUMMARY

16 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill.
17 The amendment defines "homelessness" and establishes homelessness as an emergency
18 for the purposes of a grant of emergency general assistance, as long as the person or
19 household is not otherwise ineligible for or disqualified from receiving general assistance.

20 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

21 (See attached)