



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 1520

S.P. 481

In Senate, April 28, 2011

### An Act To Improve MaineCare and Promote Employment

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

*Joseph G. Carleton Jr.*

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-G, sub-§1, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 469, Pt. A,  
3 §5 and affected by c. 673, Pt. Y, §3, is further amended to read:

4 E. The parent or caretaker relative of a child described in paragraph B or D when the  
5 child's family income is equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official  
6 poverty line, subject to adjustment by the commissioner under this paragraph.  
7 Medicaid services provided under this paragraph must be provided within the limits  
8 of the program budget. Funds appropriated for services under this paragraph must  
9 include an annual inflationary adjustment equivalent to the rate of inflation in the  
10 Medicaid program. On a quarterly basis, the commissioner shall determine the fiscal  
11 status of program expenditures under this paragraph. If the commissioner determines  
12 that expenditures will exceed the funds available to provide Medicaid coverage  
13 pursuant to this paragraph, the commissioner must adjust the income eligibility limit  
14 for new applicants to the extent necessary to operate the program within the program  
15 budget. If, after an adjustment has occurred pursuant to this paragraph, expenditures  
16 fall below the program budget, the commissioner must raise the income eligibility  
17 limit to the extent necessary to provide services to as many eligible persons as  
18 possible within the fiscal constraints of the program budget, as long as the income  
19 limit does not exceed 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line; ~~and.~~

20 The parent or caretaker relative described in this paragraph who has received benefits  
21 under this chapter in the past 3 months and whose income now exceeds the level in  
22 this paragraph may purchase coverage under this chapter for a period of up to 18  
23 months at a premium level that does not exceed the premiums established for  
24 MaineCare under the Katie Beckett option authorized by the federal Tax Equity and  
25 Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 and a contribution toward administrative costs no  
26 greater than the maximum level allowed under the federal Consolidated Omnibus  
27 Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985;

28 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-G, sub-§1, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 469, Pt. A,  
29 §5 and affected by c. 673, Pt. Y, §3, is further amended to read:

30 F. A person 20 to 64 years of age who is not otherwise covered under paragraphs A  
31 to E when the person's family income is below or equal to 125% of the nonfarm  
32 income official poverty line, provided that the commissioner shall adjust the  
33 maximum eligibility level in accordance with the requirements of the paragraph.

34 (2) If the commissioner reasonably anticipates the cost of the program to exceed  
35 the budget of the population described in this paragraph, the commissioner shall  
36 lower the maximum eligibility level to the extent necessary to provide coverage  
37 to as many persons as possible within the program budget.

38 (3) The commissioner shall give at least 30 days' notice of the proposed change  
39 in maximum eligibility level to the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
40 having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing  
41 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services  
42 matters;.



1 household income is equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line  
2 eligible for Medicaid.