

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1664

S.P. 669

In Senate, April 13, 2023

An Act to Increase Reimbursement Under the General Assistance Program

(EMERGENCY)

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

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington. Cosponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland and Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, DUSON of Cumberland, HARRINGTON of York, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DAVIS of East Machias, HEPLER of Woolwich, MEYER of Eliot.

- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
 - Whereas, provisions in this legislation take effect July 1, 2023; and
- 4 **Whereas,** unless this legislation takes effect immediately, the provisions in the bill cannot be effectuated; and
- 6 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 7 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 9 therefore,
- 10 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4311, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. SSSS, §1, is

 further amended to read:
- 13 1. Departmental reimbursement. When a municipality incurs net general assistance 14 costs in any fiscal year prior to July 1, 2015 in excess of .0003 of that municipality's most recent state valuation relative to the state fiscal year for which reimbursement is being 15 issued, as determined by the State Tax Assessor in the statement filed as provided in Title 16 36, section 381, the Department of Health and Human Services shall reimburse the 17 municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of these expenditures when the department 18 19 finds that the municipality has been in compliance with all requirements of this chapter. If a municipality elects to determine need without consideration of funds distributed from any 20 21 municipally-controlled trust fund that must otherwise be considered for purposes of this 22 chapter, the department shall reimburse the municipality for 66 2/3% of the amount in excess of such expenditures when the department finds that the municipality has otherwise 23 24 been in compliance with all requirements of this chapter.
- The department shall reimburse each municipality and each Indian tribe 70% of the direct costs incurred by that municipality or tribe on or after July 1, 2015 and until June 30, 2023 for the general assistance program granted by that municipality or tribe. For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in section 411, subsection 8-A.
- Beginning July 1, 2023, the department shall reimburse each municipality and each Indian
 tribe 90% of the direct costs incurred by that municipality or tribe for the general assistance
 program granted by that municipality or tribe.
- For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribe" has the same meaning as in section 411,
 subsection 8-A.
- Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
 takes effect when approved.
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SUMMARY

This bill increases, from 70% to 90%, the amount of state reimbursement for the costs
of general assistance incurred by each municipality and Indian tribe.