

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 978****LR 1745(02)****An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "****Committee: Health and Human Services****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$1,821,933	\$1,821,933	\$3,643,867	\$3,643,867
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$1,821,933	\$1,821,933	\$3,643,867	\$3,643,867

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$1,821,933 in fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27 to fund increased state reimbursement of municipal general assistance costs. The bill increases the reimbursement rate from 70% to 75% for costs incurred on or after July 1, 2025 and from 75% to 80% for costs incurred on or after July 1, 2027.

The bill also limits housing assistance provided under general assistance to a maximum of 12 months in a 36-month period. This is estimated to reduce the annual cost of state reimbursement for municipal general assistance by \$3,715,190 beginning in fiscal year 2026-27. Because the current budget for state reimbursement for general assistance is insufficient to cover projected costs, any reduction in reimbursement costs from this limit would not result in savings to budgeted amounts, but would reduce the amount of the gap between budgeted and actual expenditures.