



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 396

H.P. 280

House of Representatives, February 10, 2021

**An Act To Require the Department of Health and Human Services
To Provide Assistance with Applications for Basic Necessities To
Prevent Children Being Removed from Parental Custody**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 8, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R(t) B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4003, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

3 **2-A. No removal for economic deprivation.** Ensure that children will not be
4 removed from the custody of their parents by the department if the jeopardy to health or
5 welfare is evidenced only by deprivation of adequate food, clothing, shelter or necessary
6 health care when that deprivation is the result of parents having insufficient income and
7 resources to provide those necessities;

8 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§2, ¶E,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 586, §7, is further
9 amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

10 (1) Provide information about rehabilitation and other services that may be
11 available to assist the family, including but not limited to assistance with
12 applications for any state and federal aid or medical programs intended to provide
13 basic necessities for individuals and families; and

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance
16 with applying for basic necessities if a child is at risk of being removed from the home
17 solely due to the parents having insufficient income and resources to provide those
18 necessities and stipulates in law that the Legislature intends that children may not be
19 removed from the custody of the parents solely due to economic deprivation.