

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Daily Edition**

**Second Regular Session**

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pages 1084 - 1604

Changes to the Law Necessary to the Operation of State Government

(H.P. 1339) (L.D. 1816)  
(H. "D" H-707)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eagle Lake, Representative Martin.

Representative **MARTIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I want to make sure that we have in the record the language which clearly lays out what is the intent of the Appropriations Committee, which deals specifically with expenditures, which deals with noncats. Expenditures will be maintained at the \$40 million and that the commissioner will continue the freeze on the program enrollment but will not eliminate coverage for those currently enrolled in the program, and this basically is in order to serve the maximum number of people that we can for that amount and that is the intent of the Appropriations Committee.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Stuckey.

Representative **STUCKEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I want to first of all thank our colleagues on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee for their commitment to collaboration in the incredible effort it must have taken to arrive at their unanimous report. I want to personally and publicly thank Representative Flood and Representative Rotundo for their fortitude, their wisdom and the leadership they bring every day to this process. However, I didn't vote for the original biennial budget last year and I won't be voting for this streamlining and supplemental amendment for that budget before us today. Here is why.

This proposal reintroduces much of what we rejected last year and more, allegedly because we can no longer afford to care for, or about, thousands of Maine's most vulnerable and disenfranchised men, women and children, and their families. The bill before us today is bad. Many of the cuts are ill-advised. They don't solve problems, they don't save money. They'll just shift the service venue and the payer and may wind up costing us much more. They eliminate thousands of jobs. They will hurt lots of people and scare a lot more. Completely de-funding the evidence-based and highly successful High Fidelity Wraparound program is a huge step backwards in our efforts to support effective and efficient community-based programs for highly at-risk children and their families. Do we really want to go back to sending these troubled youth to out of state and out of mind facilities with six figure annual fees?

Reducing the funding to the Maine Youth Action Network and the Alternative Response program means reducing proven frontline community services that reach out to young people and strengthen community infrastructure and family supports for at-risk and disenfranchised children and youth that keep them out of much more expensive parts of our child welfare system. I don't really believe that capping the noncats will actually produce by attrition the book savings, leaving the commissioner of Health and Human Services free to further dismantle this program. There are already 16,000 people on a frozen waiting list and, in the end, we'll pay more and get less. Reducing income eligibility will remove 14,000 parents from MaineCare and will lead to poorer and more expensive outcomes for them and for their children and, again, we'll pay more and get less.

It's not rocket science. We should be bringing more people into the health care system, not kicking them out. Increased access to affordable primary care and a well managed medical home will produce better health outcomes and lower overall

health care costs. Men and Women of the House, let's be very clear. Many of us are struggling in today's economy, but a few of us most certainly are not. The real crisis we face in Maine today is one of vision and priorities. This budget isn't about money, it's about ideology. There are far smarter and more fair and balanced ways to approach our state's budget and our future. Please join me in voting no on this bill and forcing us to find another way to balance our budget, a way that more accurately reflects our shared values, our commitment to social and economic justice, and the way life should be here in Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Rotundo.

Representative **ROTUNDO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I would like to add to the language that the Representative from Eagle Lake, Representative Martin, shared in connection with the legislative intent of the Appropriations Committee regarding the noncategoricals. I would like to add a couple of sentences for the record.

"Program expenditures must be maintained at \$40 M dollars in order to serve the maximum number of people that we can for that amount."

"Expenditures will be maintained at \$40 M. To maintain expenditures at \$40 M the Commissioner will continue the freeze on program enrollment, but will not eliminate coverage for those currently enrolled in the program.

If after October 1, 2012 it is estimated that annual expenditures for state fiscal year '13 will exceed that amount the commissioner is charged with achieving the needed savings through benefit redesign as the next course of action after consulting with the Committees on Health and Human Services and Appropriations and Financial Affairs instead of cutting enrollment or eligibility."

Thank you.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 109 voted in favor of the same and 27 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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#### SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 633)

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that when the House and Senate adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 10:00 in the morning.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.  
**READ** and **PASSED** in concurrence.

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By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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On motion of Representative FREDETTE of Newport, the House adjourned at 9:15 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 21, 2012 pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 633).