

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 854

H.P. 628

House of Representatives, February 14, 2019

An Act To Improve Tax Incentives for Broadband Service

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ACKLEY of Monmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec and
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, RYKERSON of
Kittery, SKOLFIELD of Weld.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRS §5225, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 184, §4, is
3 further amended to read:

4 C. Costs related to economic development, environmental improvements, fisheries
5 and wildlife or marine resources projects, recreational trails, broadband service
6 development, expansion or improvement, including connecting to broadband service
7 outside the tax increment financing district, or employment training within the
8 municipality or plantation, including, but not limited to:

9 (1) Costs of funding economic development programs or events developed by
10 the municipality or plantation or funding the marketing of the municipality or
11 plantation as a business or arts location;

12 (2) Costs of funding environmental improvement projects developed by the
13 municipality or plantation for commercial or arts district use or related to such
14 activities;

15 (3) Funding to establish permanent economic development revolving loan funds,
16 investment funds and grants;

17 (4) Costs of services and equipment to provide skills development and training,
18 including scholarships to in-state educational institutions or to online learning
19 entities when in-state options are not available, for jobs created or retained in the
20 municipality or plantation. These costs must be designated as training funds in
21 the development program;

22 (5) Quality child care costs, including finance costs and construction, staffing,
23 training, certification and accreditation costs related to child care;

24 (6) Costs associated with new or existing recreational trails determined by the
25 department to have significant potential to promote economic development,
26 including, but not limited to, costs for multiple projects and project phases that
27 may include planning, design, construction, maintenance, grooming and
28 improvements with respect to new or existing recreational trails, which may
29 include bridges that are part of the trail corridor, used all or in part for all-terrain
30 vehicles, snowmobiles, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or other related
31 multiple uses;

32 (7) Costs associated with a new or expanded transit service, limited to:

33 (a) Transit service capital costs, including but not limited to: transit vehicles
34 such as buses, ferries, vans, rail conveyances and related equipment; bus
35 shelters and other transit-related structures; and benches, signs and other
36 transit-related infrastructure; and

37 (b) In the case of transit-oriented development districts, ongoing costs of
38 adding to an existing transit system or creating a new transit service and
39 limited strictly to transit operator salaries, transit vehicle fuel and transit
40 vehicle parts replacements; ~~and~~

1 (8) Costs associated with the development of fisheries and wildlife or marine
2 resources projects; and

3 (9) Costs associated with broadband service development, expansion or
4 improvement, including connecting to broadband service outside the tax
5 increment financing district; and

6

7

SUMMARY

8 This bill expands the allowable use of tax increment financing to include
9 development, expansion or improvement of broadband services, including connecting to
10 broadband service outside the tax increment financing district.