

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 463

H. P. 374

House of Representatives, February 16, 1977

Referred to Committee on Human Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Pearson of Old Town.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to Funds for Employment Opportunities for Maine's
Reservation Indians.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 4716-A is enacted to read:

§ 4716-A. Maine Indian Business Development Grant and Loan Fund

1. Creation of the fund. There is created a Maine Indian Business Development Grant and Loan Fund which shall be administered by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to fund Maine reservation Indians in developing and operating private business on Maine Indian reservations. The Maine Indian Business Development Grant and Loan Fund shall consist of 2 parts, a grant fund and a loan fund.

A. There shall be allocated a sum of \$50,000 for grants to Maine reservation Indians for the purpose of developing private Indian businesses on the reservations and \$50,000 for loans to Maine reservation Indians for the purpose of expanding and improving private Indian businesses on the reservations.

B. The Maine Indian Business Development Grant and Loan Fund shall be a nonlapsing, revolving fund for carrying out this section. Moneys in the fund not needed currently to meet the obligations of this section shall remain in the fund as an on-going program.

2. Eligibility for grants and loans. The applicant shall be eligible for a grant or loan under this section if he meets all of the following criteria.

A. The applicant shall be a member of a Maine Indian Tribe and a resident on the reservation of the tribe of which he is a member.

B. The applicant shall receive the approval of the tribal governor and council in regard to the type of business planned.

C. The applicant shall meet the credit rating established by the tribal governor and council, which shall be based upon criteria set up by the tribal governor and council.

D. The applicant shall be 18 years of age or older.

3. Repayment of loan. The recipient of a Maine Indian Business Development Loan shall repay the loan at a rate of interest of not more than 3% per year in a period of not more than 15 years.

4. Liability. Repayment of the loan is the responsibility of the recipient of the loan. The tribal governor and council may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, sell the business for the unpaid balance to another member of the tribe who is a resident on the reservation and who shall then become liable for the repayment of the loan.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Indian Affairs the sum of \$100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1978, to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| | 1977-78 |
| INDIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF | |
| Maine Indian Business Development | |
| Grant and Loan Fund | |
| All Other | \$100,000 |

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to provide employment opportunities for the Maine Indian population and to enhance their self-sufficiency by establishing a flexible program for economic development.