

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(NEW DRAFT OF H.P. 1625, L.D. 2220)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2601

H.P. 1904 House of Representatives, March 31, 1988
Reported by Representative PRIEST from the Committee on
Economic Development and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill sponsored by Representative CROWLEY of
Stockton Springs. Cosponsored by Senator EMERSON of Penobscot
and Representative BAILEY of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

1 **AN ACT to Create the Economic Corridor Action**
2 **Grant Program.**
3

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

6 5 MRSA §13075 is enacted to read:

7 §13075. Economic Corridor Action Grant Program

1 The Director of the Office of Community
2 Development shall implement a program to assist
3 municipalities in the planning and implementation of
4 capital improvements in public service infrastructure
5 in municipalities within designated economic corridors.

6 1. Purpose. The purpose of the program is to
7 enable municipalities within economic growth corridors
8 to plan for growth and development and to develop the
9 public service infrastructure to encourage and manage
10 balanced growth.

11 2. Definitions. As used in this section, the
12 following terms have the following meanings.

13 A. "Economic growth corridor" means an economic
14 corridor designated by the Commissioner of
15 Transportation in consultation with the
16 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
17 and which is included in the Department of
18 Transportation's Highway and Bridge Improvement
19 Program that is presented to the Legislature
20 during the first year of each biennium of the
21 Legislature. An economic growth corridor shall
22 contain the following:

23 (1) Economic activity and good potential for
24 continued economic activity;

25 (2) Connections between commercial or
26 population centers;

27 (3) Connections among state municipalities
28 with significant markets in other states and
29 countries;

30 (4) Connections between natural resource
31 areas and value-added processors;

32 (5) Connections between markets and tourist
33 destinations.

34 B. "Public service infrastructure" means those
35 facilities which are essential for public health,
36 welfare and safety. These facilities include,

1 without limitation, sewage treatment facilities,
2 municipal water facilities, solid waste
3 facilities, fire protection facilities, roads and
4 traffic control devices, parks and other open
5 space or recreational areas and any other public
6 facility which benefits the public.

7 3. Municipal eligibility. The Department of
8 Economic and Community Development may make grants to
9 eligible municipalities within economic growth
10 corridors in support of capital investments in public
11 service facilities or projects which support economic
12 growth and development. Any municipality is eligible
13 to apply for grants under this article when it has
14 adopted a comprehensive plan pursuant to the
15 requirements of Title 30, chapter 239, subchapter VI.
16 Such a comprehensive plan shall include a capital
17 investment plan comprised of the following elements:

18 A. An assessment of all public facilities and
19 services, including, but not limited to, roads,
20 sewers, schools, parks and open space, fire and
21 police;

22 B. A 10-year plan for the replacement and
23 expansion of existing public facilities or the
24 construction of such new facilities as are
25 required to meet expected growth and economic
26 development. The capital investment plan shall
27 include projections of when and where such
28 facilities will be required; and

29 C. An assessment of the anticipated costs for
30 replacement, expansion or construction of public
31 facilities, an identification of revenue sources
32 available to meet these costs and recommendations
33 for meeting costs required to implement the plan.

34 4. Grants criteria. The department shall develop
35 criteria and conditions for the award of grants to
36 eligible municipalities after holding hearings
37 pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act,
38 chapter 375, for the purpose of developing these
39 criteria and conditions.

1 A. The department shall establish a preference
2 for those municipalities with higher local
3 property tax burdens. The comparative local
4 property tax burden shall be determined under
5 Title 30, section 5055.

6 B. The department shall give priorities to those
7 projects which, in comparison to other proposed
8 projects, will have the greatest impact on the
9 economic growth corridors.

10 C. The department shall condition any grants
11 under this article on consistency with the
12 municipality's comprehensive plan, including its
13 capital investment plan.

14 D. The department shall establish a preference
15 for capital investment projects undertaken jointly
16 by 2 or more municipalities or which provide
17 substantial regional benefits.

18 E. The department shall adopt other criteria as
19 it determines necessary to ensure that grants made
20 under this article maximize the ability of
21 municipalities to accommodate planned growth and
22 economic development.

23 5. Adoption of rules. In addition to the
24 criteria defined in subsections 3 and 4, the
25 department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 375 to
26 develop additional criteria for the selection of
27 recipients of economic growth corridor action grants.
28 These rules shall consider the following:

29 A. The degree of need for grants;

30 B. The degree of matching funds to be provided by
31 a municipality or region whenever applicable;

32 C. The priority of projects for the area;

33 D. The priority of the area with respect to other
34 corridors.

35 6. Coordination. The department shall coordinate

1 the grants made under this article with all other
2 community assistance grants administered by the
3 department and with other state assistance programs
4 designed to accomplish similar objectives, including
5 those administered by the Department of Educational
6 and Cultural Services, the Department of
7 Transportation and the Department of Environmental
8 Protection.

9 7. Funds. All grants provided pursuant to this
10 section shall be made from any funds available for the
11 purpose of the program to include federal funds, bond
12 proceeds, General Fund appropriations, private money,
13 and any other available funds.

14 8. Report to the Legislature. The department
15 shall annually report in writing and in person to the
16 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
17 jurisdiction over economic development no later than
18 the 2nd Wednesday in February with respect to the
19 implementation of this section. This report, at a
20 minimum shall include:

21 A. The economic growth corridors that have been
22 awarded grants;

23 B. The projects and the costs of the projects for
24 which the grants have been awarded;

25 C. The estimated impact of the projects on the
26 municipality and the corridor;

27 D. Applications for grants that were denied
28 including the projects proposed in these
29 applications and the reasons for the denial; and

30 E. A summary of the hearings held pursuant to
31 subsection 4, including a copy of the final rules.

32 STATEMENT OF FACT

33 This new draft provides guidelines for municipal
34 eligibility in the Economic Corridor Action Grant
35 Program, criteria for the awarding of grants, and

1 guidelines for rulemaking. Economic growth corridors
2 will be designated by the Commissioner of
3 Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner
4 of Economic and Community Development. The Department
5 of Economic and Community Development will report
6 annually to the Joint Standing Committee on Economic
7 Development with respect to the grants and the amount
8 of the grants awarded, the recipients of the grants,
9 the projects for which the grants have been approved
10 and applications and projects that have been denied.

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