

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1780

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BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reported by: Senator Rand

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A" to S.P. 602, L.D. 1780, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Finance Authority of Maine Act and the Adaptive Equipment Loan Program"

Amend the bill by inserting before section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §373, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1995, c. 519, §3, is further amended to read:

1. Establishment; membership. There is established the Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund Board that consists of 9 members as follows: ~~The--Commissioner--of--Education--or--the commissioner's~~ the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services or the director's designee; the Treasurer of State or the Treasurer of State's designee; an experienced consumer lender; a certified public accountant; and 5 persons with a range of disabilities, all nondesigned members to be appointed by the Governor. The board shall annually elect a chair from among its members.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 4 by striking out all of paragraphs A and B and inserting in their place the following:

'A. Individuals and business entities are eligible for loans;

B. A preference is given for loans to qualifying individual borrowers seeking loans to acquire adaptive equipment for personal, family or household purposes; and

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2 C. Loan applications may only be approved or denied by the
4 board at a regular or special meeting except as follows:

6 (1) Approval of applications for loans under \$2,500
8 may be delegated by the board to a subcommittee of the
board or outside contractors under the supervision and
control of the board; and

10 (2) In the discretion of the chair of the board, if an
12 applicant would suffer undue hardship by waiting for
14 the next regular meeting the application may be
approved by a subcommittee of the board containing at
least 5 members of the board when a majority of the
members of such subcommittee vote for approval.

16 In all other cases, including any denial of an application,
18 the application must be acted upon by the board at a regular
or special meeting.'

20 Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 to 6
22 and inserting in their place the following:

24 'Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §963-A, sub-§51, amended by PL 1993, c. 427,
26 §3, is further amended to read:

28 51. Veteran. "Veteran" means any person who served in the
United States Armed Forces during any federally recognized period
of conflict as defined in Title 37-B, section 504, subsection 4,
30 paragraph A-1, subparagraph (3), or was eligible for an Armed
Forces Expeditionary Medal or campaign medal, and was not
32 dishonorably discharged. A veteran of the Vietnam War must have
served on active duty for a period of more than 90 days, unless
34 that veteran was discharged for a service connected disability,
and any part of that active duty service occurred after December
36 22, 1961 and before May 7, 1975.

38 Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §963-A, sub-§51-A is enacted to read:

40 51-A. Wartime veteran. "Wartime veteran" means any person
who served in the United States Armed Forces during any federally
42 recognized period of conflict as defined in Title 37-B, section
504, subsection 4, paragraph A-1, subparagraph (3) or was
44 eligible for an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or campaign
medal, and was not dishonorably discharged. A veteran of the
46 Vietnam War must have served on active duty for a period of more
than 90 days unless that veteran was discharged for a
48 service-connected disability, and any part of that active duty
service occurred after December 22, 1961 and before May 7, 1975.

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2 The amendment further clarifies that all business entities
are eligible for adaptive equipment loans. It includes a
4 requirement that the board adopt rules setting forth a preference
for individuals with disabilities to receive loans for personal
6 purposes. This amendment also allows a subcommittee of the
Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund Board to approve
8 applications for loans of \$2,500 or less and emergency
applications. Outside contractors under contract with the board
may also approve loans of less than \$2,500.

10
12 The amendment further amends the Finance Authority of Maine
Act to change the definition of veteran to include any individual
14 who has served in the United States Armed Forces and include a
separate definition of a wartime veteran.

16 The amendment expands the Finance Authority of Maine's
ability to insure loans to veterans by allowing the authority to
18 insure 100% for a loan of up to \$75,000 for any person who has
served in the United States Armed Forces or up to \$125,000 for
20 wartime veterans.

22 The amendment further clarifies that the authority may
charge interest on Teachers for Maine loans that are not forgiven
24 by return service.

26 The amendment deletes sections of the bill that have been
enacted by Public Law 1997, chapter 97, sections 1 to 4.

28 The amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT