

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1922

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H.P. 1373

House of Representatives, December 9, 1997

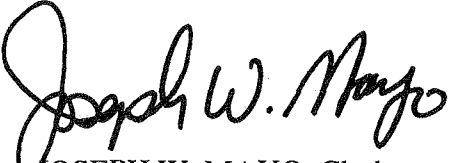
**An Act to Expand the Uses of the Economic Opportunity Fund.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Submitted by the Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 5, 1997. Referred to the Committee on Business and Economic Development pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative VIGUE of Winslow.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMERON of Rumford, FARNSWORTH of Portland,  
MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, SHANNON of Lewiston, Senators: MacKINNON of  
York, RAND of Cumberland.

2       **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

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6       Whereas, grants from the Economic Opportunity Fund  
established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section  
13090-A are limited to municipalities; and

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10       Whereas, the Department of Economic and Community  
Development anticipates the receipt of approximately \$100,000  
12 from the sale of a building financed under the community  
industrial building program that is required to be deposited into  
the Economic Opportunity Fund; and

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16       Whereas, the Department of Economic and Community  
Development anticipates that it will receive a \$250,000 federal  
18 grant for a statewide mature industries economic conversion  
effort and that grant will require a cash match prior to July of  
1998; and

20  
22       Whereas, in the absence of this Act, the Department of  
Economic and Community Development will be unable to utilize the  
24 anticipated receipts to the Economic Opportunity Fund for match  
purposes; and

26       Whereas, unless this Act is effective immediately, this  
important federal grant would be jeopardized due to the  
28 Department of Economic and Community Development's inability to  
provide matching funds to local and regional nonprofit  
30 organizations; and

32       Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
34 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
36 safety; now, therefore,

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

40       **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13090-B, sub-§5 is enacted to read:**

42       5. Nonprofit organizations. Notwithstanding other  
44 provisions of this section, for fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99,  
the department, upon application, may provide grants to local and  
46 regional nonprofit organizations up to a total amount of \$100,000  
for the 2 years combined. Funds may be loaned to a private  
48 business entity or expended in a manner that is approved by the  
department and offers the prospect of stimulating economic  
growth. This subsection is repealed July 1, 1999.

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52       **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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## SUMMARY

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6 This bill reestablishes the authority for the Department of  
Economic and Community Development to use dedicated revenue funds  
8 from the Economic Opportunity Program for grants to local and  
regional nonprofit organizations to foster economic growth  
10 activities, including economic conversion, which is coordinated  
at the regional and state levels. This authority, previously  
12 granted under Public Law 1995, chapter 40, was repealed on July  
1, 1996. Current law limits the granting of these funds to  
municipalities.

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16 This bill limits the expansion to the fiscal years 1997-98  
and 1998-99 and limits the total amount that may be granted to  
those organizations to \$100,000.

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