MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1125

H.P. 802

House of Representatives, February 9, 1999

An Act to Modify the State's Safe Drinking Water Laws.

Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative McKEE of Wayne.
Cosponsored by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, BULL of Freeport, DAIGLE of Arundel, DUPLESSIE
of Westbrook, O'NEIL of Saco, POWERS of Rockport, SCHNEIDER of Durham, WATSON
of Farmingdale.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2615-A is enacted to read:

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\$2615-A. Consumer confidence reports

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- 1. Annual reports to customers. The commissioner shall require each community water system, as defined in section 2660-B, subsection 2, to prepare and provide to each customer of the system at least once annually a consumer confidence report, which must include, but is not limited to, the source of drinking water and potential contamination sources, the level of regulated contaminants and unregulated contaminants for which monitoring is required by the primacy agency, the health risks associated with detected contaminants, the status and notice of public input in the renewal of variances or exemptions, the nature of applicable compliance violations, including remedial action, and access to additional information from the community water system and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline.
- 2. Reports to State. Each community water system shall mail to the department a copy of the consumer confidence report and a signed certification that the report is accurate and was delivered to each customer of the system.

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- 3. Delivery to customers. Each community water system 28 shall mail a copy of the consumer confidence report to each customer of the system. The Governor may waive the mailing 30 requirement for community water systems serving fewer than 10,000 persons and require those systems to publish the consumer 32 confidence report in a newspaper of general circulation to inform customers that the report will not be mailed and to make the report available upon request. If the Governor waives the 34 mailing requirement for systems serving fewer than 10,000 36 persons, community water systems serving 500 or fewer persons have the option of posting the consumer confidence report in an 38 appropriate public location.
- Each community water system serving 100,000 or more persons shall also post its current year's report to a publicly accessible site on the Internet.
- 44 4. Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules establishing the requirements with respect to the form, content and delivery of consumer confidence reports under this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

	Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5953-B, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 1997,
2	c. 555, §3, is further amended to read:
4	A. The bank may make loans from the fund to a public water system for one or more of the purposes set forth in
6	subsection 1. Each of the loans is subject to the following
8	conditions.
10	(1) The total amount of loans outstanding at any one time from the fund may not exceed the balance of the
12	fund, provided that the proceeds of bonds or notes of the bank deposited in the fund, revenues from other
14	sources deposited in the fund and binding financial commitments of the United States to deposit money in
16	the fund are included in determining the fund balance.
18	(2) The loan must be evidenced by a municipal bond or other debt instrument in a form acceptable to the bank,
20	payable by the public water system over a term not to
	exceed 20 years from completion of construction of the project, or 30 years from completion of construction of
22	the project in the case of a public water system that the bank and the Department of Human Services have
24	determined serves a disadvantaged community, with annual principal or interest payments commencing not
26	later than one year after the project being financed is completed.
28	(3) The rate of interest charged for the loans must be
30	at or below market interest rates, including an interest-free loan.
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34	(4) Subject to the limitations of subparagraph (3), the rate of interest charged for the loans made to
36	<pre>public water systems under this section or the manner of determining the rate of interest must be established</pre>
38	from time to time by direction of the bank, taking into consideration the current average rate on outstanding
40	marketable obligations and the policies of the Department of Human Services.
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44	SUMMARY
	This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Human Services to
46	require each community water system to prepare and provide to each customer of the system at least once annually a consumer
48	confidence report containing information required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
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This bill clarifies state laws to better reflect the federal law authorizing the state revolving loan funds. The bill also provides public water systems the maximum loan terms allowable under the federal state revolving loan fund legislation.