

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1334

S.P. 459

In Senate, February 16, 1999

An Act Concerning the Distribution of Certain Fines and Forfeitures.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1555-B, sub-§9**, as enacted by PL 1997, c.
305, §5, is amended to read:

6 **9. Distribution of fines.** Fines and forfeitures collected
8 pursuant to subchapter I and this subchapter must be credited as
follows: one half to the General Fund and 1/2 to be deposited in
10 a nonlapsing account with the Administrative Office of the Courts
to be paid to law enforcement agencies pursuant to section 1555-C.

12 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1555-C** is enacted to read:

14 **§1555-C. Tobacco Revenues Grants Committee**

16 **1. Committee established.** The Tobacco Revenues Grants
18 Committee, referred to in this section as the "committee," is
established within the Department of the Attorney General.

20 **A.** The committee shall administer the distribution of fines
22 and forfeitures collected pursuant to subchapter I and this
subchapter.

24 **B.** The committee consists of one representative designated
26 by the Maine Chiefs of Police Association; one
representative designated by a statewide association of
28 sheriffs; one representative designated by the Department of
Public Safety; one representative designated by the
30 Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health; one
representative designated by a statewide association
32 promoting drug abuse resistance education; and the Attorney
General, or a designated representative of the Attorney
34 General, who shall act as chair. Members of the committee
serve without compensation. Reasonable expenses for
36 clerical and administrative expenses may be retained by the
Department of the Attorney General from the proceeds of
38 finances and forfeitures collected pursuant to subchapter I and
this subchapter.

40 **2. Applications for funds.** Beginning January 2000 and
42 semiannually thereafter, the committee shall solicit applications
from local, county, and state law enforcement organizations for
44 use of the available tobacco revenues to establish programs to
reduce tobacco and drug use by youths. At that time, the
46 committee shall determine the total amount of funds available.
The committee shall develop by rule criteria for the award of
48 funds to eligible applicants. The criteria must include, but are
not limited to, consideration of:

50 **A.** A likelihood of success in reducing the incidence of
tobacco and drug use by Maine youth;

- 2 B. Cost-effectiveness;
4 C. Demonstration of an adequate plan of administration;
6 D. Suitability to the geographical area to be served; and
8 E. Evidence of public support.

10 Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules
12 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

14 3. Distribution. Following selection of the successful
16 applicants, the committee chair shall direct the Administrative
18 Office of the Courts to distribute the funds accordingly.

20 4. Reporting requirements. The committee shall file
22 annually a report with the joint standing committee of the
24 Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters.
26 The report must include, but is not necessarily limited to, the
28 total value of grants awarded, the organizations awarded funds
30 and the committee's evaluation of the success of programs
32 previously funded.

SUMMARY

28 This bill establishes within the Department of the Attorney
30 General the Tobacco Revenues Grants Committee, which has the
32 authority to award to law enforcement agencies funds derived from
1/2 of the fines and forfeitures collected from persons found in
violation of the retail tobacco sales law.