

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1651

H.P. 1154

House of Representatives, March 3, 1999

An Act to Ensure that Tobacco Settlement Funds Are Used for Health Purposes.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRY of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and
Representatives: DUGAY of Cherryfield, GAGNE of Buckfield, McKEE of Wayne,
MURPHY of Berwick, SIROIS of Caribou, TRACY of Rome, USHER of Westbrook,
Senator: BERUBE of Androscoggin.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 102, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 560, Pt. D, §2, is amended by repealing the chapter headnote and enacting in its place the following:

CHAPTER 102

TOBACCO AND HEALTH PROTECTION

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §273 is enacted to read:

§273. Tobacco Settlement Dedicated Fund

The Tobacco Settlement Dedicated Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is established to receive all revenue from any settlement of pending or potential legal action against tobacco manufacturers brought by the State.

1. Uses. Revenue to the fund may be used only for the purposes listed in this subsection:

A. Smoking cessation public education, seminars, treatment clinics and costs;

B. Expansion of the elderly low-cost drug program under section 254 to cover health care expenses for smoking-related illness and disease;

C. Health care coverage for persons who are unable to afford coverage; and

D. Payment of health care costs for persons who use tobacco products.

2. Dedicated fund. The fund is a special, dedicated, nonlapsing fund and any interest generated by the fund is credited to the fund. The department shall administer the fund.

3. Limitation. Expenditure of funds is limited to 3/4 of the revenue deposited into the fund each year. Funds in excess of the 3/4 limitation may be approved for expenditure by vote of 3/4 of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SUMMARY

This bill creates the Tobacco Settlement Dedicated Fund to receive revenue from the settlement of litigation between the State and the tobacco manufacturers. The fund may be used for

2 payment of health care costs for persons who use tobacco
products; smoking cessation public education, seminars, treatment
4 clinics and costs; expansion of the elderly low-cost drug program
under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 254 to cover
6 health care expenses for smoking-related illness and disease; and
health care coverage for persons who are unable to afford
8 coverage. Expenditures from the fund are limited to 3/4 of the
annual revenue unless approved by a vote of 3/4 of the members of
the Senate and the House.