

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.S.

DATE: 3-19-01

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 225, L.D. 260, Bill, "An Act to Provide Funds to Purchase Thermal Imaging Cameras"

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Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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'Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2403 is enacted to read:

28

§2403. Thermal Imaging Camera Program

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1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

34

A. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee.

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B. "Fund" means the Thermal Imaging Camera Fund established in this section.

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2. Program established. The commissioner shall oversee the Thermal Imaging Camera Program to negotiate one or more bulk purchases of thermal imaging cameras on behalf of local fire-fighting units and, to the extent funds are available, to provide loans for the purchase of such cameras by local fire-fighting units. The commissioner shall determine how many thermal imaging cameras local fire-fighting units wish to

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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2 purchase under the program and shall negotiate a bulk purchase
3 price of those cameras, provided that the units are able to pay
4 for the cameras or have qualified for a loan pursuant to
5 subsection 4.

6 3. Fund established. The Thermal Imaging Camera Fund is
7 established from which the loans authorized under subsection 4
8 may be made. The fund, which is a nonlapsing fund, receives
9 money from appropriations made by the Legislature and from any
10 other public or private source including repayment of loans.
11 Money deposited in the fund and any interest earnings on that
12 money remain in the fund to be used for loans pursuant to this
13 section.

14 4. Loans and purchases authorized. To the extent money is
15 available in the fund, the commissioner may make interest-free
16 loans to local fire-fighting units, or the appropriate units of
17 government with jurisdiction over the fire-fighting units, to
18 assist in the purchase of the thermal imaging cameras for which
19 the commissioner negotiates a price pursuant to subsection 2.
20 The commissioner may recover administrative costs associated with
21 administering the loans through a processing fee equitably
22 imposed on local fire-fighting units, or the units of government
23 with jurisdiction over the fire-fighting units, which receive
24 loans under this section. The commissioner shall also arrange
25 for the direct purchase of a thermal imaging camera by a local
26 fire-fighting unit if no loan is sought or available. The
27 commissioner by rule shall establish procedures for determining
28 which local fire-fighting units qualify to receive loans in the
29 event the fund is insufficient to provide loans to all
30 fire-fighting units that seek loans. Rules adopted to implement
31 this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
32 chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

33 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
34 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

35 2001-02

36 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

37 **Thermal Imaging Camera Program**

38 Capital Expenditures \$50,000

39 Provides funds to establish
40 the Thermal Imaging Camera
41 Fund from which loans may be
42 made to local fire-fighting

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 225, L.D. 260

units for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras. Money in the fund does not lapse, but must be carried forward.

Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	2001-02	2002-03
PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF		
Thermal Imaging Camera Fund		
All Other	\$50,000	\$500
Allocates funds from the Thermal Imaging Camera Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.'		

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

	2001-02	2002-03
APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS		
General Fund	\$50,000	
Other Funds	50,000	500

REVENUES

Other Funds	\$50,000
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This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 2001-02 for the Department of Public Safety to provide funds for the Thermal Imaging Camera Fund. This amount will be transferred to the dedicated fund.

This bill includes Other Special Revenue allocations of \$50,000 and \$500 in fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively, to the Department of Public Safety to establish spending authority for the Thermal Imaging Camera Fund. The fund may receive additional dedicated revenues from other public and private sources and interest earnings; the amounts can not be determined at this time.

2 The Department of Public Safety will incur some minor
4 additional costs to adopt certain rules pertaining to loans and
6 purchases that can be made from the Thermal Imaging Camera Fund.
These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing
budgeted resources.'

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SUMMARY

10 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment makes the
12 following substantive changes to the bill:

14 1. It removes references in the bill to law enforcement
16 agencies. Under this amendment, only fire-fighting units are
eligible to participate in the bulk purchasing and loan program
for thermal imaging cameras;

18 2. It reduces the appropriation for the Thermal Imaging
20 Camera Program to \$50,000. The program may receive funds from
private sources. Under this amendment, loans will only be made
22 to the extent funds are available; and

24 3. It adds a fiscal note to the bill.