

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 260

H.P. 225

House of Representatives, January 23, 2001

An Act to Provide Funds to Purchase Thermal Imaging Cameras.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative TRAHAN of Waldoboro.
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, BRUNO of Raymond, COLWELL of Gardiner,
DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, RICHARDSON of Brunswick, Senators: President Pro Tem
BENNETT of Oxford, LEMONT of York, McALEVEY of York.

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

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

6 **§2403. Thermal Imaging Camera Program**

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

10 A. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety.

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

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16 2. Program established. The commissioner, with the advice of the State Fire Marshal, shall oversee the Thermal Imaging Camera Program to provide low-interest loans for the purchase or to allow the purchase of thermal imaging cameras by local fire-fighting units and local law enforcement agencies. The State Fire Marshal shall determine how many thermal imaging cameras local fire-fighting units and local law enforcement agencies wish to purchase and shall negotiate a bulk purchase price for the total number of the cameras.

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26 3. Fund established. The Thermal Imaging Camera Fund is established from which the loans authorized under subsection 4 are made. The fund receives money from appropriations made by the Legislature and may include money from any other public or private source including repayment of loans. Money deposited in the fund and any earnings on that money remain in the fund to be used for loans pursuant to this section.

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34 4. Loans and purchases authorized. The commissioner shall make a low-interest loan to a local fire-fighting unit or local law enforcement agency, or the appropriate unit of government with jurisdiction over the unit or agency, to assist in the purchase of a thermal imaging camera or cameras for which the State Fire Marshal negotiated a price in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner for implementing this section. The commissioner shall also arrange for the direct purchase of a thermal imaging camera by a local fire-fighting unit or local law enforcement agency if no loan is required. Any rules adopted to implement this section are routine technical rules pursuant to the Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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

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2001-02

4 **PUBLIC SAFETY,
DEPARTMENT OF**

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8 **Thermal Imaging Camera
Program**

10 All Other \$500,000

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14 Provides funds to establish the Thermal
16 Imaging Camera Fund from which low-interest
18 loans are to be made to local fire-fighting
units and law enforcement agencies for the
purchase of thermal imaging cameras. Money
in the fund does not lapse, but must be
carried forward.

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SUMMARY

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26 This bill directs the State Fire Marshal to negotiate a bulk
purchase price for thermal imaging cameras to be purchased by
28 local fire-fighting units and law enforcement agencies. The
purchase may be furthered by means of a low-interest loan
administered by the Commissioner of Public Safety from the
Thermal Imaging Camera Fund, to which this bill appropriates
30 \$500,000.