

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 669

S.P. 197

In Senate, February 13, 2001

An Act to Clarify the Use of the Municipal Investment Trust Fund.

Submitted by the State Planning Office pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development 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 President MICHAUD of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative COWGER of Hallowell and
Senators: ABROMSON of Cumberland, DAGGETT of Kennebec, GAGNON of Kennebec,
TREAT of Kennebec, Representatives: DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, KOFFMAN of Bar
Harbor, MAYO of Bath, McLAUGHLIN of Cape Elizabeth.

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

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Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4301, sub-§14-A is enacted to read:

14-A. Service center community. "Service center community" means a municipality or group of municipalities identified by the office according to a methodology established by rule that includes 4 basic criteria, including level of retail sales, jobs-to-workers ratio, the amount of federally assisted housing and the volume of service sector jobs.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5903, sub-§8-A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 721, Pt. D, §2 and affected by Pt. H, §1, is amended to read:

8-A. Public service infrastructure. "Public service infrastructure" means those facilities that are essential for public health, welfare and safety. Those facilities include, without limitation, sewage treatment facilities, municipal water supply and treatment facilities, solid waste facilities, fire protection public safety equipment and facilities, roads, traffic control devices and other transportation facilities, sidewalks, trees, buried utility lines and other streetscape improvements, parks and other open space or recreational areas, public access to coastal and inland waters, geographic information systems, and any other public facility that benefits the public.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §5953-D, sub-§4, as corrected by RR 1999, c. 2, §34, is amended to read:

4. Criteria; conditions for public service infrastructure grants and loans. The Department of Economic and Community Development, in conjunction with the bank, shall develop criteria and conditions for the award of public service infrastructure loans and grants to eligible municipalities subject to the requirements of this section. The department shall:

A. Give highest priority to ~~those municipalities that are experiencing rapid growth and possess a public service infrastructure inadequate to accommodate that growth~~ service center communities. For the purpose of this section, "service center community" has the same definition as in section 4301;

B. Establish Following the highest priority described in paragraph A, establish a preference for those municipalities eligible under subsection 3, paragraph D, subparagraph (1) over those municipalities eligible under subsection 3, paragraph D, subparagraph (2);

2 C. ~~Establish a preference for those municipalities with~~
3 ~~higher local property tax burdens. The comparative local~~
4 ~~property tax burden must be determined under section 5681;~~

6 D. Establish Following the preference described in
7 paragraph B, establish a preference for capital investment
8 projects undertaken jointly by 2 or more municipalities or
9 that provide substantial regional benefits;

10 E. Adopt other criteria as it determines necessary to
11 ensure that loans and grants made under this section
12 maximize the ability of municipalities to accommodate
13 planned growth and economic development; and

14 F. Condition any loans and grants under this section on
15 consistency with the municipality's comprehensive plan or
16 local growth management program.

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SUMMARY

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23 This bill clarifies that public service infrastructure
24 includes streetscape improvements that are critical to the
25 "livability" of communities and the hardware necessary to support
26 the development and operation of geographic information systems.
27 It also clarifies that the highest priority for these funds is
28 service centers and prioritizes preferences for grant awards from
the Municipal Investment Trust Fund.