

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 4.14.03

(Filing No. S- 43)

LABOR

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 116, L.D. 334, Bill, "An Act To Establish a Transportation Assistance Program and Revolving Loan Fund"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Establish a Transportation Assistance Pilot Program'

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

'Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §372, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. FF, §4, is further amended to read:

1. Creation of fund. There is established the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund, which must be used to provide funding for adaptive--equipment loans to qualified borrowers within the State in order to acquire adaptive equipment designed to assist the borrower in becoming independent and for other purposes as allowed under section 376. The fund must be deposited with, maintained and administered by the Finance Authority of Maine and contain appropriations provided for that purpose, interest accrued on the fund balance, funds received by the board to be applied to the fund and funds received in repayment of loans. This fund is a nonlapsing revolving fund. All money in the fund must be continuously applied to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

2 Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §376, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 817, §2, is
amended to read:

4 **§376. Purposes for which loans may be awarded**

6 The board may award loans to qualifying borrowers for the
following purposes, ~~including, but not limited to, the following:~~

8 1. **Individual independence.** To assist one or more persons
10 with disabilities to improve their independence through the
purchase of adaptive equipment; and

12 2. **Productive members of community.** To assist one or more
14 persons with disabilities to become more independent members of
the community and improve quality of life within the community
16 through the purchase of adaptive equipment; and

18 3. **Transportation assistance.** For the purpose set forth in
section 377, subject to the limitations set forth in that
20 section. This subsection is repealed June 30, 2005.

22 Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §377 is enacted to read:

24 **§377. Loans for transportation assistance pilot program**

26 The board may award loans for the purpose of assisting
persons with disabilities to purchase used vehicles necessary to
28 obtain or retain employment or employment training, subject to
the following limitations.

30 1. **Qualifications of borrower.** A loan may be made under
32 this section only to a qualifying borrower who meets the other
34 requirements of this chapter and who demonstrates a need for a
vehicle as part of an individualized plan toward employment
36 developed with a state or community-based organization that
provides employment services to persons with disabilities and
that is approved by the board.

38 2. **Limitation on loan amount.** Loans made under this
40 section may not exceed \$7,000 per qualifying borrower.

42 3. **Aggregate amount of loans.** The maximum aggregate amount
of loans made under this section may not exceed \$250,000 in
44 fiscal year 2003-04 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2004-05.

46 4. **Repeal.** This section is repealed June 30, 2005.

48 Sec. 4. **Report.** The Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan
Program Fund Board shall present a report to the joint standing
50 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 116, L.D. 334

transportation matters before January 1, 2005. The report must identify the number and dollar amount of loans made under the transportation assistance pilot program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 377 and the repayment history of borrowers under the program.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. Instead of creating a separate program to make loans, this amendment creates a 2-year pilot program to allow the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund to be used for the purpose. Loans may be made for the purchase of a vehicle needed as part of an individualized plan towards employment for up to \$7,000 per qualifying borrower. Total loans under the pilot program may not exceed \$250,000 in each of the 2 fiscal years in which it will operate. The amendment also requires the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund Board to present a report on the pilot program to the legislative committee having jurisdiction over transportation matters by January 1, 2005.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review

LD 334

**An Act to Establish a Transportation Assistance Program and Revolving
Loan Fund**

LR 1026(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" S-43

Committee: Labor

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Finance Authority of Maine and the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.