

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 334

S.P. 116

In Senate, January 28, 2003

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

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Reference to the Committee on Labor 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 Senator GAGNON of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative MARRACHÉ of Waterville, Representative MARLEY of  
Portland and Senators: BRYANT of Oxford, HATCH of Somerset, MAYO of Sagadahoc,  
Representatives: HATCH of Skowhegan, HUTTON of Bowdoinham, PATRICK of Rumford.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1412-H is enacted to read:

**§1412-H. Transportation Assistance Program**

There is established within the department the Transportation Assistance Revolving Loan Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," to serve as a loan guarantee fund. The fund supports the Transportation Assistance Program, referred to in this section as "the program," to assist persons with disabilities who reside in rural areas of the State in purchasing used motor vehicles for the purpose of traveling to and from work. The fund and the program must be administered in accordance with this section.

1. Funding. The fund may be financed through funds received from federal, state, county and municipal public sources and from private grants and contributions.

2. Administration. The fund and the program are administered by the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and the Finance Authority of Maine established pursuant to Title 10, section 964. By March 1st each year, the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services shall release a request for proposals for the following fiscal year soliciting proposals from community rehabilitation agencies to administer the program.

3. Operation. The fund operates as a loan guarantee fund for private-sector originators to offer loans at less than 10% per annum interest.

4. Rules. The department shall adopt rules necessary for implementation of the fund and the program. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the Transportation Assistance Revolving Loan Fund and the Transportation Assistance Program to assist persons with disabilities in rural areas of the State in purchasing used motor vehicles for the purpose of traveling to and from work. The fund and the program will be administered by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services in conjunction with the Finance Authority of Maine. The fund will guarantee loans for private-sector loan originators that offer loans at less than 10% per year interest.