

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 847

H.P. 624

House of Representatives, February 20, 2003

An Act To Offer Zero-interest Loans to Employers Providing Bicycle Facilities

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative SUSLOVIC of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BROMLEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: EDER of Portland, KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor, LERMAN of Augusta,
MARRACHÉ of Waterville, PIOTTI of Unity, SAMPSON of Auburn, WOODBURY of
Yarmouth, Senator: GAGNON of Kennebec.

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

4 Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 110, sub-c. 11-A is enacted to read:

6 SUBCHAPTER 11-A

8 BICYCLING ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM

10 §1100-Z. Bicycling Assistance Loan Program

12 1. Program established. The Bicycling Assistance Loan
14 Program, referred to in this subchapter as "the program," is
16 established within the authority to be administered by the
18 authority through approved lenders. The purpose of the program is
20 to subsidize interest costs of loans made to eligible businesses
for the purchase and installation of bicycle racks, showers and
changing rooms by that entity for its employees. The program
subsidizes loan interest rates made by approved lenders to
achieve an effective interest rate to borrowers of 0%.

22 2. Sources of funds. Payments under the program to approved
24 lenders equal to the present value of the total interest costs
26 charged to the borrower by the lender over the term of a
28 qualifying loan are to be charged by the authority to the Fund
for a Healthy Maine, as provided in Title 22, section 1511,
subsection 6. The authority may not charge payments for loan
subsidies under this subchapter to the Fund for a Healthy Maine
unless the authority first determines that sufficient funds exist
in the Fund for a Healthy Maine to pay the amount to be charged.

30 3. Rules. The authority shall adopt rules to implement the
32 program. These rules must include, but are not limited to,
34 criteria for determining qualified lenders, eligibility
36 requirements for participation in the program by businesses, the
38 maximum amount of loan or interest subsidy permitted under the
program and the maximum term of loans allowed under the program.
Rules adopted under this section are major substantive rules
pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

40 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA, §1511, sub-§6, ¶¶G and H, as enacted by PL
42 1999, c. 401, Pt. V, §1, are amended to read:

44 G. Substance abuse prevention and treatment; and

46 H. Comprehensive school health programs, including
48 school-based health centers; and

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1511, sub-§6, ¶I is enacted to read:

2 I. Loan interest rate subsidizes charged to the fund by the
3 Finance Authority of Maine under the Bicycle Assistance Loan
4 Program established in Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter
5 11-A.

6
7 **SUMMARY**

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9 This bill creates the Bicycling Assistance Loan Program
10 within the Finance Authority of Maine to provide zero-interest
11 loans to qualifying businesses for the purchase and installation
12 of bicycle racks, showers and changing rooms for its employees.
13 The authority is required to administer the loans through
14 approved lenders and to charge the costs of the interest subsidy
15 to the Fund for a Healthy Maine, contingent upon the availability
16 of funds in the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

17 The bill requires the Finance Authority of Maine to adopt
18 major substantive rules to implement the loan program. These
19 rules must specify the criteria for determining qualifying
20 lenders, eligibility requirements for participation in the
21 program by businesses, the maximum amount of loan or interest
22 subsidy permitted under the program and the maximum term of loans
23 allowed under the program.
24