

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1145

H.P. 848

House of Representatives, March 4, 2003

### An Act To Create the Maine Community Preservation Fund

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLS of Cornville.

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

4 **CONCEPT DRAFT**  
6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

10 This bill proposes to impose a gross receipts tax of 0.5% on  
12 certain retail stores that are located outside of a downtown, as  
14 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4301,  
16 subsection 5-A. The tax would be imposed on retail stores that  
18 have retail floor space greater than 6,000 square feet, that are  
located with other stores in a common shopping facility  
containing retail floor space greater than 6,000 square feet or  
that are served by adjacent parking lots greater than 2 acres in  
aggregate size.

20 The bill proposes to establish the Maine Community  
22 Preservation Fund to receive the proceeds of the gross receipts  
tax. The fund would be used for the following purposes in order  
of priority.

24 1. The fund would be used to transfer up to \$2,000,000 per  
26 month into the Maine Milk Pool or any lesser amount that the  
Maine Milk Commission determines is necessary to compensate Maine  
28 dairy farmers for 50% of the difference between \$17 per  
hundredweight and the adjusted wholesale price of milk on a  
30 month-to-month basis, beginning with payments for each of the 3  
months immediately preceding the effective date of the bill.

32 2. The fund would be used to transfer \$500,000 per month  
34 into the Land for Maine's Future Fund beginning January 1, 2004.  
Payments made from January 2004 to June 2005 must first be  
36 applied to payments on bonds issued to support the fund.

38 3. The fund would be used to transfer \$20,000 per month to  
the Downtown Leasehold Improvement Fund beginning in January 2004.

40 4. The fund would be used to support an agricultural  
42 property tax program.

44 5. The fund would be used to transfer money to a fund to  
support consumption of Maine milk, fruit and produce in Maine  
46 schools.

48 6. The fund would be used to fund the geographic  
information system established by the Department of  
50 Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Information  
Services.

7. The fund would be used to transfer money to small  
2 business development funds, increase the Municipal Investment  
Trust Fund, provide grants for comprehensive planning and plan  
4 implementation and support affordable housing.