

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 362

H.P. 275

House of Representatives, January 25, 2005

**An Act To Allow Citizens To Voluntarily Pay Extra Income Taxes
or Donate Money to the State**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPREY of Hampden.
Cosponsored by Senator SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin and
Representatives: ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft, CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, HALL of Holden,
MARLEY of Portland, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, VAUGHAN of Durham, Senator:
COURTNEY of York.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §534, sub-§5, ¶L**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 406, §7, is further amended to read:

6 L. Report annually ~~beginning January 1, 1999~~ to the joint
8 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
10 over state government matters. The report must include a
12 complete list of services offered through the InforME
14 system, the fees associated with services and the criteria
16 used to determine which services are offered as premium
18 services. The report must also include the annual
contributions to the Maine State Government Fund established
pursuant to Title 5, section 3307-G. In its January 1, 1999
report, the board must also include an analysis of the
feasibility of offering premium services at no charge to
depository libraries or other libraries in the State; and

20 **Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §534, sub-§5, ¶M**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 406, §8, is amended to read:

22 M. Authorize the network manager to collect funds pursuant
24 to section 533, subsection 10 for information and electronic
26 services provided and transactions conducted electronically;
and

28 **Sec. 3. 1 MRSA §534, sub-§5, ¶N** is enacted to read:

30 N. Develop and implement a mechanism to accept
contributions to the Maine State Government Fund established
pursuant to Title 5, section 3307-G using the State's
publicly accessible site on the Internet.

34 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §3307-G** is enacted to read:

36 **§3307-G. Maine State Government Fund**

38 1. Purpose. The Maine State Government Fund, referred to
in this section as "the fund," is established to provide
40 additional financial support for certain state programs.

42 2. Source of funds. The fund receives money deposited by
the Treasurer of State pursuant to Title 1, section 534 and Title
44 36, section 5289. Revenue within the fund must be recorded in
separate accounts for the Department of Health and Human
46 Services, the Department of Education and the Department of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and an account for unspecified
48 contributions.

2 3. Collaboration. The Executive Department, State Planning
and Human Services, the Commissioner of Education, the
4 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Commissioner
of Administrative and Financial Services and the State Tax
6 Assessor to coordinate and manage the fund.

8 4. Transfers. The Director of the State Planning Office
within the Executive Department shall on or before the close of
10 each fiscal year transfer funds that have been designated for
contribution under section 5289, subsection 1 and Title 1,
12 section 534 to the Department of Health and Human Services, the
Department of Education and the Department of Inland Fisheries
14 and Wildlife out of the fund to a dedicated account within the
Department of Health and Human Services, a dedicated account
16 within the Department of Education and a dedicated account within
the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, respectively, to
18 support departmental operations.

20 5. Unspecified funds. Any funds deposited in the fund that
are not designated for the benefit of the Department of Health
22 and Human Services, the Department of Education or the Department
of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must be transferred to a
24 dedicated account within the Department of Administrative and
Financial Services to support departmental operations.

26
28 **Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §5289** is enacted to read:

30 **§5289. Maine State Government Fund voluntary checkoff**

32 1. Maine State Government Fund. A taxpayer who, when
filing a return, is entitled to a refund under this Part may
34 designate that a part of that refund be paid into the Maine State
Government Fund established in Title 5, section 3307-G. A
36 taxpayer who is not entitled to a refund under this Part may
contribute to the Maine State Government Fund by including with
that taxpayer's return sufficient funds to make the
38 contribution. Each individual income tax return form must
contain a designation in substantially the following form:
40 "Contribution to Maine State Government Fund: ()\$5, ()\$10, ()
\$25 or () Other \$... ." The return form must provide the
42 taxpayer the option of further dedicating the contribution to the
Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of
44 Education or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

46 2. Contributions credited to Maine State Government Fund.
The State Tax Assessor shall determine annually the total amount
48 contributed pursuant to subsection 1. Prior to the beginning of
the next year, the assessor shall deduct the cost of
50 administering the Maine State Government Fund checkoff, but not

2 exceeding \$5,000 annually, and report the remainder to the
3 Treasurer of State, who shall credit that amount to the Maine
4 State Government Fund established in Title 5, section 3307-G.

6 **Sec. 6. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2006.

8 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill establishes the Maine State Government Fund to
11 provide funding assistance to state programs operated by the
12 Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of
13 Education and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
14 It authorizes a voluntary Maine State Government Fund checkoff on
15 the individual income tax form to allow a taxpayer to donate a
16 portion of a tax refund or make a donation with the tax return.

18 This bill also requires the InforME Board to develop a
19 method to accept contributions to the Maine State Government Fund
20 using the State's website.