

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

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Legislative Document

No. 2271

H.P. 1636

House of Representatives, March 24, 2008

### **An Act Regarding the State Government Evaluation Act Review of the Maine State Housing Authority**

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Reported by Representative SMITH of Monmouth for the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4706, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 175, §1, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 B. Any written or recorded financial statement, as determined by an authority, of an  
5 individual submitted to an authority or a member, officer, employee or agent of an  
6 authority, in connection with an application for, or receipt of, a grant, mortgage or  
7 mortgage insurance;

8 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4706, sub-§1, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 175, §2, is  
9 amended to read:

10 C. Any information acquired by the Maine State Housing Authority or a state public  
11 body, private corporation, copartnership, association, fuel vendor, private contractor  
12 or individual, or an employee, officer or agent of any of those persons or entities,  
13 providing services related to weatherization, energy conservation, homeless  
14 assistance or fuel assistance programs of the Maine State Housing Authority, when  
15 that information was provided by the applicant for, or recipient of, those services or  
16 by a 3rd person; ~~and~~

17 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4706, sub-§1, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 175, §2, is  
18 amended to read:

19 D. Any statements of financial condition or information pertaining to financial  
20 condition submitted to any of the persons or entities set forth in paragraph C in  
21 connection with an application for services related to weatherization, energy  
22 conservation, homeless assistance or fuel assistance programs of the Maine State  
23 Housing Authority; and

24 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4706, sub-§1, ¶E** is enacted to read:

25 E. The address of a shelter or other living accommodations for victims of domestic  
26 violence.

27 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶Y**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt.  
28 RRRR, §4, is further amended to read:

29 Y. Expand access to housing for young professionals and young families. The Maine  
30 State Housing Authority shall develop recommendations to create or modify  
31 programs with the goal of expanding access to housing for young professionals and  
32 young families. The Maine State Housing Authority shall specifically consider  
33 strategies to assist renters and first-time home buyers who are under 35 years of age  
34 and explore options for linking assistance levels to student loan obligations. The  
35 Maine State Housing Authority shall collaborate with the Maine Community College  
36 System, vocational high schools and community action programs to encourage the  
37 development of affordable housing in high-cost housing areas of the State.

38 (1) The Maine State Housing Authority shall report its findings and  
39 recommendations regarding expanded access to housing for young professionals  
40 and young families to the Maine Development Foundation and to the joint

1 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters  
2 no later than January 15, 2005 ~~and annually thereafter~~;

3 **Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4741, sub-§18**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 175, §8, is  
4 amended to read:

5 **18. State designee for homeless programs.** The Maine State Housing Authority is  
6 designated the coordinating agency for the State for programs dealing with homeless  
7 persons and may apply for, receive, distribute and administer federal, state and other  
8 funds on behalf of the State for homeless programs including, without limitation, the  
9 Emergency Community Services Homeless Grant Program and the programs authorized  
10 pursuant to the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Public Law 100-  
11 77, (1987), as amended.

12 **Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4852, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 606, Pt. C, §1  
13 and affected by §3, is repealed.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the Maine State Housing  
16 Authority.

17 1. It eliminates the annual reporting requirement for the recommendations regarding  
18 housing for persons under 35 years of age.

19 2. It provides the Maine State Housing Authority with the ability to administer state  
20 and other funds for persons who are homeless.

21 3. It expands the records protected as confidential records pursuant to the freedom of  
22 access law to include the addresses of domestic violence shelters and living  
23 accommodations, as well as information collected by recipients of grants, mortgages and  
24 mortgage insurance from the authority.

25 4. It repeals the setting aside of funds within the Housing Opportunities for Maine  
26 Fund.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)



# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2271 LR 3572(01)

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**Fiscal Note for Original Bill**  
**Committee: Business, Research and Economic Development**  
**Fiscal Note Required: No**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Funds

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Maine State Housing Authority can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.