

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 26, 2009

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1220

S.P. 453

In Senate, March 26, 2009

**An Act To Create Incentives for the Consolidation of Municipal
Services**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Joy J. O'Brien in cursive.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §6201, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Challenge grant.** "Challenge grant" means a grant award from the fund
4 pursuant to section 6207-A to cover eligible costs of a qualifying project.

5 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §6201, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 266, §2, is
6 amended to read:

7 **5. Eligible costs.** "Eligible costs" means the actual and direct expenses incurred in
8 implementing a cooperative services grant or a planning grant awarded under section
9 6208 or a challenge grant awarded under section 6207-A, including expenses incurred in
10 connection with the following activities for cooperative services grants ~~and~~ planning
11 grants and challenge grants.

12 A. Eligible costs for a planning grant include the expense of:

- 13 (1) Studies to examine alternative methods of achieving collaboration, including
14 those adopted by other municipalities;
15 (2) Cost-benefit studies; and
16 (3) Facilitation of community meetings and public outreach and education.

17 B. Eligible costs for a cooperative services grant ~~includes~~ include the expense of:

- 18 (1) Execution and implementation of an interlocal agreement under chapter 115,
19 a tax base sharing arrangement or another regional government mechanism for
20 achieving collaboration;
21 (2) Joint strategic planning or comprehensive or capital investment planning;
22 (3) Public outreach and education;
23 (4) Collaboration or consolidation of offices or services;
24 (5) Professional services, such as those provided by attorneys, consultants,
25 facilitators and architects; and
26 (6) Administrative services and costs, such as photocopying, printing, telephone
27 service and travel costs.

28 C. Eligible costs for a challenge grant include the expense of:

- 29 (1) The start-up costs of consolidating the public works of multiple
30 municipalities under integrated services; and
31 (2) Administration and delivery of integrated services.

32 Administrative and other costs of ongoing operations that would otherwise be budgeted
33 by a municipality, county or regional government subdivision are not eligible costs
34 except for a grant under paragraph C.

35 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §6201, sub-§6-A** is enacted to read:

1 **6-A. Integrated services.** "Integrated services" means public works provided to 3 or
2 more municipalities by one administration under the direction of a county or a manager
3 who develops a budget for and implements the delivery of the public works and is hired
4 by and reports to a board composed of one member from each municipality receiving the
5 integrated services.

6 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §6201, sub-§7-A** is enacted to read:

7 **7-A. Public works.** "Public works" means services provided by a local or regional
8 government relating to the construction, repair and maintenance of public roads, bridges
9 and sidewalks and associated lighting, storm water and traffic control systems within the
10 jurisdiction of the local or regional government.

11 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §6205, first ¶,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 266, §2, is
12 amended to read:

13 In accordance with the request for proposals issued by the department under section
14 6209, an eligible applicant may apply for a planning grant ~~or~~ a cooperative services grant
15 or a challenge grant from the fund. In order to be eligible for a planning grant or a
16 cooperative services grant, an eligible applicant must demonstrate in its application that
17 the project for which it seeks a grant will be undertaken in cooperation with one or more
18 municipalities, counties or regional government subdivisions. In order to qualify for a
19 challenge grant, an eligible applicant must demonstrate in its application that the project
20 for which it seeks a grant will be undertaken in cooperation with 3 or more
21 municipalities.

22 **Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §6207-A** is enacted to read:

23 **§6207-A. Challenge grant funding**

24 **1. Challenge grants.** The department shall award a challenge grant to an eligible
25 applicant to consolidate into integrated services substantially all of the public works of 3
26 or more adjacent municipalities in accordance with a request for proposals issued by the
27 department under section 6209.

28 **2. Basic funding.** For each of the first 3 fiscal years under the challenge grant, the
29 department shall award from the fund to the administration of the integrated services an
30 amount equal to \$1 times the combined population of the municipalities receiving the
31 integrated services to be used to administer and deliver the integrated services.

32 **3. County funding.** For each of the first 6 years under the challenge grant, if a
33 qualifying project consolidates substantially all of the public works of at least 3
34 municipalities that collectively represent more than 60% of the population of the county
35 in which the municipalities are located into integrated services administered by the
36 county, the department shall award from the fund to the county an amount equal to \$3
37 times the population of the municipalities receiving the integrated services to be used in
38 the administration and delivery of the integrated services.

