

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1069

H.P. 804

House of Representatives, March 15, 2011

An Act To Provide Maine Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grants

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative VALENTINO of Saco.
Cosponsored by Representatives: PRESCOTT of Topsham, RUSSELL of Portland, Senator:
PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13090-M** is enacted to read:

3 **§13090-M. Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grant Program**

4 **1. Program established.** The Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grant
5 Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Office of
6 Tourism to promote tourism and industry in the State and assist in job creation through
7 grants for feature film projects that promote the State's natural resources and industries.
8 For purposes of this section, "feature film" means a full-length movie with a running time
9 of 40 minutes or longer that is made for distribution in theaters as the main attraction of
10 the screening.

11 **2. Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grants Fund.** The Tourism and
12 Industry Collaborative Film Grants Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is
13 established within the Office of Tourism as a nonlapsing, dedicated account.

14 **3. Revenue sources.** The fund receives money deposited by the Treasurer of State
15 and any other gift, grant or other source of revenue deposited for use pursuant to this
16 section.

17 **4. Fund operation; eligible projects.** The Office of Tourism shall use the fund to
18 provide grants of up to \$500,000 for eligible feature film projects, not to exceed 40% of
19 the feature film's production budget, to be paid upon the feature film's completion.
20 Money in the fund may be provided initially as a loan to eligible feature film projects
21 under the program during preproduction and production of the feature film. The feature
22 film project must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Office of Tourism that the
23 following criteria have been met upon completion of the feature film in order to receive
24 the grant funds:

25 **A.** The feature film must have a production budget over \$250,000;

26 **B.** The feature film must feature at least one primary State industry;

27 **C.** At least 75% of the feature film project must include on-location filming in the
28 State;

29 **D.** At least 75% of the feature film's story must be set in the State; and

30 **E.** At least 25% of the feature film must showcase outdoor locations in the State.

31 **5. Access to film footage.** A feature film project that accepts grant funds pursuant to
32 this section must provide the Office of Tourism with access to all film footage and the
33 authority to use the footage in state tourism promotion. The feature film project must
34 also provide the Office of Tourism with 30-second or 60-second edited film footage for
35 state tourism promotion activities.

36 **6. Procedures.** The Office of Tourism may adopt routine technical rules in
37 accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A by which the program is
38 implemented.

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SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grant Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism to promote Maine tourism and industry and assist in job creation through grants for feature film projects that promote Maine's natural resources and industries. The program will provide grants from the Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grants Fund of up to \$500,000 for eligible feature film projects, not to exceed 40% of the feature film's production budget, to be paid upon the feature film's completion. The bill provides that money in the fund may be distributed to eligible feature film projects initially as a loan during preproduction and production of the feature film. The bill requires that, in order to receive grant funds upon completion, the feature film project must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Office of Tourism that the feature film has a production budget over \$250,000, features at least one primary Maine industry, tells a story that is set in Maine for at least 75% of the film and features outdoor locations in Maine for at least 25% of the film. The feature film project must also have filmed on location in Maine for at least 75% of the film. The bill requires a feature film project to provide film footage for state tourism promotion activities.