

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1354

S.P. 473

In Senate, April 9, 2013

An Act To Create the Aging in Place Program

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOODALL of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative CAREY of Lewiston and
Senators: CRAVEN of Androscoggin, PATRICK of Oxford, SAVIELLO of Franklin,
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, CAMPBELL of Newfield, GILBERT of Jay, HARVELL
of Farmington, STUCKEY of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13073-C** is enacted to read:

3 **§13073-C. Aging in Place Program**

4 **1. Program established; administration.** The Aging in Place Program, referred to
5 in this section as "the program," is established within the department to assist low-income
6 seniors with aging in place. The program facilitates housing improvements that allow
7 low-income seniors to remain in their homes safely, independently and comfortably as
8 they age. The housing improvements include but are not limited to weatherization and
9 improvements to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards, replace
10 substandard fixtures and hardware and reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs.
11 All funds received for this program must be deposited into the Aging in Place Fund
12 established by subsection 3.

13 **2. Eligibility.** Seniors eligible for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
14 Program are eligible for assistance under this program.

15 **3. Aging in Place Fund created.** The Aging in Place Fund, referred to in this
16 section as "the fund," is established to provide funding for the aging in place of low-
17 income seniors. The fund is a dedicated, nonlapsing fund, and all revenues deposited in
18 the fund remain in the fund and must be disbursed in accordance with this section.

19 **4. Distribution of the fund.** The department shall disburse money from the fund to
20 a statewide network that provides weatherization and home repair services, including but
21 not limited to repairs to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards, to
22 replace substandard fixtures and hardware and to reduce ongoing maintenance and
23 heating costs, to low-income residents.

24 **5. Reporting.** A recipient of money from the fund shall report annually to the
25 department on the use of the money, including the number of houses improved, the
26 number of residents in those houses and the amounts of other funds leveraged.

27 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
28 allocations are made.

29 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

30 **Aging in Place Program**

31 Initiative: Appropriates funds for the statewide Aging in Place Program.

32			
33	GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
34	All Other	\$750,000	\$750,000
35			
36	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$750,000</u>	<u>\$750,000</u>

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SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Aging in Place Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development to assist low-income seniors with aging in place, including assisting low-income seniors to remain in their homes. It also establishes the Aging in Place Fund and appropriates money to the fund. The department is required to disburse money from the fund to a statewide network that provides weatherization and home repair services, including but not limited to repairs to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards, to replace substandard fixtures and hardware and to reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs, to low-income residents.