

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 68

H.P. 62

House of Representatives, January 16, 2015

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Attract
Business by Investing in High-speed Broadband Infrastructure**

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Newfield.
Cosponsored by Representative SAUCIER of Presque Isle, Senator WOODSOME of York and
Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, GILBERT of Jay, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,
MARTIN of Sinclair, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, O'CONNOR of Berwick, SHORT of
Pittsfield, Senator: DUTREMBLE of York.

1 deposited in the fund are deemed to be encumbered for purposes of this section at the
2 time the funds are deposited in the fund. For the purpose of this section, an Internet
3 connection that is capable of uploading and downloading data at speeds no lower than
4 100 megabytes per second is considered to be high-speed.

5 **2. Grants to municipalities.** The authority shall award grants from the fund to
6 municipalities for the development and improvement of high-speed municipal broadband
7 infrastructure in accordance with this subsection.

8 A. The authority shall award grants to eligible applicant municipalities on a 2-to-one
9 matching basis. A municipality may not receive more than \$100,000 in matching
10 funds per application.

11 B. To apply for a grant, a municipality must file with the authority a request for
12 funds together with a certification indicating that the funds requested will be used to
13 deploy high-speed broadband infrastructure within the municipality. The
14 certification must include the projected cost of developing or improving high-speed
15 broadband infrastructure in the municipality and the scope of such work, and must
16 indicate how the funds will be spent. Upon receipt of a municipal application, the
17 authority shall disburse an amount in accordance with procedures specified pursuant
18 to paragraph C.

19 C. The authority shall adopt a procedure whereby applicant municipalities are
20 selected to receive grants and criteria by which the authority determines the amounts
21 to award to municipal applicants.

22 **Sec. B-2. Contingent effective date.** This Part takes effect only if the General
23 Fund Bond issue proposed in Part A is approved by the voters of this State.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill provides for a bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 to be used to expand
26 high-speed municipal broadband infrastructure. The bill also establishes the High-speed
27 Municipal Broadband Infrastructure Fund to assist municipalities in developing and
28 improving their broadband infrastructure, contingent upon passage of the bond issue.