

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 584

S.P. 199

In Senate, February 16, 2017

**An Act To Create the Fund for Municipalities To Improve
Pedestrian Safety**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

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

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §75** is enacted to read:

3 **§75. Fund for Municipalities To Improve Pedestrian Safety**

4 **1. Establishment.** The Fund for Municipalities To Improve Pedestrian Safety,
5 referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a program account in the
6 Highway Fund within the department. The fund must be used for pedestrian safety
7 improvements, including, but not limited to, lights, paint, signs, speed bumps and
8 reconstruction of intersections. The department shall administer the fund.

9 **2. Distribution and use of funds.** A municipality or a group of municipalities may
10 apply for funding under this section. Up to 2/3 of project costs for pedestrian safety
11 improvements as determined by the department may be financed from the fund with the
12 remainder of the costs provided by the municipality or group of municipalities. The
13 department shall authorize funding amounts, within available funds, based on a
14 competitive rating system established by the department by rule.

15 **3. Rules.** The Commissioner of Transportation shall adopt rules to implement this
16 section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined
17 in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

18 **4. Report.** Beginning January 15, 2018 and biennially thereafter, the Commissioner
19 of Transportation shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
20 jurisdiction over transportation matters on the implementation and operation of this
21 section.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill establishes the Fund for Municipalities To Improve Pedestrian Safety as a
24 program account in the Highway Fund within the Department of Transportation. The bill
25 provides that the fund must be used for pedestrian safety improvements, such as lights,
26 paint, signs, speed bumps and reconstruction of intersections. The bill also provides that
27 a municipality or a group of municipalities may apply for funding from the fund. Up to
28 2/3 of project costs for pedestrian safety improvements may be financed from the fund
29 with the remainder of the costs provided by the municipality or group of municipalities.