

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1263

S.P. 426

In Senate, March 30, 2017

**Resolve, To Increase the Affordability of Safe Drinking Water for
Maine Families**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MAKER of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative HERBIG of Belfast and
Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, DILL of Penobscot, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of
Hancock, Representatives: GERRISH of Lebanon, MARTIN of Sinclair, THERIAULT of
China, TUELL of East Machias.

1 **Sec. 1. Funds for well water treatment. Resolved:** That the Maine State
2 Housing Authority shall distribute funds under section 3 to increase the affordability of
3 water treatment filtration systems for households with contaminated private drinking
4 water wells.

5 For the purposes of this resolve, "contaminated" means that the level of
6 microorganisms, disinfectants, disinfection by-products, inorganic chemicals, organic
7 chemicals or radionuclides exceeds maximum contaminant levels for public water
8 systems established by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, 40 Code of
9 Federal Regulations, Part 141. For the purposes of this resolve, "private drinking water
10 well" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1392,
11 subsection 8; and be it further

12 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than January 1, 2019, the Maine State
13 Housing Authority shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
14 having jurisdiction over housing and economic development matters describing how
15 many contaminated wells were treated using funds provided pursuant to this resolve to
16 organizations and agencies and the Maine State Housing Authority's home repair
17 program; and be it further

18 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
19 appropriations and allocations are made.

20 **HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

21 **Housing Authority - State 0442**

22 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to be distributed to organizations or agencies for
23 targeted outreach and marketing to connect households with contaminated well water
24 with appropriate professional services for assessing and installing and financial assistance
25 in purchasing well water treatment systems. Funds may be used to assist individuals who
26 demonstrate need but do not meet the eligibility criteria within the Maine State Housing
27 Authority's home repair program in testing their private well water or in purchasing well
28 water treatment systems.

29	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
30	All Other	\$300,000	\$0
31			
32	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$300,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

33 **Maine Home Repair Program Z191**

34 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to provide grants or loans to assist eligible low-
35 income homeowners with contaminated well water in the purchasing of well water
36 treatment systems.

1	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
2	All Other	\$200,000	\$0
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$200,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
5	HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE		
6	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2017-18	2018-19
7			
8	GENERAL FUND	\$500,000	\$0
9			
10	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$500,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This resolve provides one-time appropriations totaling \$500,000 from the General
13 Fund for treatment of contaminated private drinking water wells. The resolve directs the
14 Maine State Housing Authority to distribute \$300,000 to organizations and agencies to
15 identify at-risk individuals in homes with contaminated wells and to connect those
16 individuals to appropriate resources and \$200,000 to the authority's home repair program
17 to assist eligible low-income homeowners with the purchase of well water treatment
18 systems.