

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DMG  
ROFS

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L.D. 1478

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Date: 6/1/17

(Filing No. H-391)

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**LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

4

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

7

**128TH LEGISLATURE**

8

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

9

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1017, L.D. 1478, Bill, "An Act To  
10 Provide Support for Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Maine"

11

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the  
12 following:

13

**'Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
14 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

15

**Whereas,** investing in the rehabilitation and revitalization of nonproductive  
16 industrial and manufacturing sites will provide an economic boost to rural communities  
17 that have experienced severe economic decline and employment loss; and

18

**Whereas,** delaying the effective date of this bill will unnecessarily prolong the  
19 economic challenges faced by these rural communities; and

20

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
21 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
22 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
23 therefore,'

24

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the  
25 following:

26

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13120-P, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

27

**4. Other use of program funds.** The authority may use funds available for the  
28 program established in this section:

29

A. To implement the program established in this section; and

30

B. To provide technical assistance, planning grants and implementation grants to  
31 municipalities and other entities eligible for assistance under section 13120-R.

32

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §§13120-R and 13120-S** are enacted to read:

ROFS

**§13120-R. Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program**

1. Establishment; purpose. The Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program is established within the authority to provide technical assistance, planning grants and implementation grants for the rehabilitation, revitalization and marketing of manufacturing and industrial sites in rural communities.

2. Technical assistance and planning grants. The authority may provide technical assistance and grants for redevelopment and marketing of a nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site to a municipality or the owner of the nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site. In awarding grants and providing technical assistance under this subsection, the authority shall give preference to nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites located in communities that have experienced severe economic decline and employment loss due to the nonproductive nature of the site and insufficient technical or planning personnel or resources.

A. The authority shall work collaboratively with other state agencies and regional economic development organizations to provide technical assistance under this subsection.

B. A municipality that receives technical assistance or a planning grant under this subsection shall form a committee, whose membership includes but is not limited to local residents and the owner of the nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site, to provide advice regarding the redevelopment of the site.

C. If the authority is unable to provide technical assistance to a municipality or the owner of a nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site that is qualified for technical assistance under this subsection, as determined by rule, the authority may provide a planning grant to the municipality or the owner of the nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site.

D. The authority shall adopt rules related to the implementation of this subsection, including rules regarding the application process and eligibility of applicants for technical assistance and planning grants. Rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. Implementation grants; rules. The authority may provide grants for implementing a project for the redevelopment and marketing of a nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site located in a rural community that has experienced severe economic decline and employment loss due to the nonproductive nature of the site. An applicant for a grant must demonstrate the capacity to undertake the project with a reasonable prospect of bringing it to successful completion.

The authority shall adopt rules, which are routine technical rules pursuant to chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, related to the implementation of this subsection, including rules regarding:

A. The application process for implementation grants; and

B. The criteria and scoring system for awarding implementation grants. The scoring system must include, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the plan for redeveloping and marketing the nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site, community support

1 for the project and consistency with any applicable regional economic development  
2 plan.

3 **§13120-S. Inventory of nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites**

4 By January 1, 2018 and annually thereafter, the authority, in consultation with the  
5 Office of Business Development within the department, shall make or require an  
6 inventory to be made of all nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites in the State  
7 that are available for redevelopment.

8 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
9 legislation takes effect when approved.'

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and adds an emergency  
12 preamble and an emergency clause. The amendment establishes the Rural Manufacturing  
13 and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program within the Maine Rural Development  
14 Authority to provide technical assistance, planning grants and implementation grants for  
15 the redevelopment and marketing of nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites in  
16 rural communities. The authority may use funds from the Commercial Facilities  
17 Development Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13120-  
18 P to fund the activities of the Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment  
19 Program.

20 The amendment also requires the authority, in consultation with the Department of  
21 Economic and Community Development, Office of Business Development, to conduct an  
22 inventory of all nonproductive manufacturing and industrial sites in the State that may be  
23 eligible for assistance.

24 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

25 **(See attached)**



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1478

LR 962(02)

An Act To Provide Support for Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-391)*  
Committee: Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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## Fiscal Note

Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program established

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Authorizing the Maine Rural Development Authority (MRDA) to utilize funds from its Commercial Facilities Development Program for the newly established Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program will have no fiscal impact to the State. This provision will, however, result in less funds being available for the Commercial Facilities Development Program. According to the Finance Authority of Maine, who administers the funds for the MRDA, it had \$4,859,186 available to fund all of its programs as of March 31, 2017, with a total of \$4,108,176 available to lend.