

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SA
ROFS

L.D. 492

Date: 5/4/21

(Filing No. S-74)

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND
BUSINESS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

130TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 200, L.D. 492, "An Act To Create a
Regional Grant Program To Help Rural Businesses Find Qualified Staff"

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

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13056-I is enacted to read:

§13056-I. Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Program

1. Program established. The Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant
Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the department
to provide grants for local economic development initiatives in rural regions of the State
that will assist rural businesses in those regions in locating, recruiting and retaining
qualified staff to meet workforce needs. For the purpose of this section, "rural regions of
the State" means Aroostook County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and
Washington County.

2. Fund established. The Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund,
referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund within the
department for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money
appropriated to the fund by the Legislature and any funds received by the department for
the purposes of the program.

3. Rulemaking. The department shall establish by rule the criteria for eligibility for
grants from the program and the process of application. The rules must require that an entity
receiving a grant for an initiative secure matching funds for the initiative on a one-to-one
basis. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in
chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Reporting. The department shall report by January 15th of each year to the joint
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development
matters on the program, including the number of grants given and the results achieved.

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

3 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**
4 **Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund N363**

5 Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize the expenditure of any funds received from
6 outside sources to provide grants for local economic development initiatives in rural
7 regions of the State.

8	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
9	All Other	\$500	\$500
10			
11	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

12 **Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund N363**

13 Initiative: Provides one-time funds of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$300,000 in
14 fiscal year 2022-23 for eligible local economic development initiatives to advertise and
15 promote jobs in rural regions of the State and to locate and retain qualified staff. Funding
16 appropriated to this program does not lapse but must be carried forward into the next fiscal
17 year to be used only for the purpose for which it was provided.

18	GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
19	All Other	\$200,000	\$300,000
20			
21	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$200,000	\$300,000

22
23 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY**
24 **DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**
25 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

26		2021-22	2022-23
27	GENERAL FUND	\$200,000	\$300,000
28	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
29			
30	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$200,500	\$300,500

31
32 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
33 number to read consecutively.

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This amendment changes the focus of the grant program established in the bill to
36 include both recruitment and retention, rather than just recruitment. It specifies that the
37 groups receiving funds must be working on local economic development initiatives and
38 removes as the stated purpose of the grant the hiring of a workforce recruiter, and instead
39 allows these groups to use the funds to assist rural businesses in locating, recruiting and
40 retaining qualified staff. The amendment also adds a definition of "rural regions of the
41 State" to mean the counties of Aroostook, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington. The
42 amendment requires that all funds awarded be matched by the group that receives the grant.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 200, L.D. 492 (S-74)

1 Finally, it changes the appropriation of funds to a one-time allocation of \$500,000 spread
2 out over 2 years, with \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2022-
3 23.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 (See attached)

**130th MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 492****LR 355(02)****An Act To Create a Regional Grant Program To Help Rural Businesses Find Qualified Staff**

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (5-74)
Committee: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes one-time General Fund appropriations of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 to a newly created Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund within the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide grants for local economic development initiatives in rural regions of the State. This bill also includes Other Special Revenue Funds base allocations of \$500 per year beginning in fiscal year 2021-22 to authorize the expenditure of any funds received for the program from outside sources.