

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/24/22

(Filing No. S-(609))

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT “A” to H.P. 666, L.D. 910, “An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement”

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

Sec. 1. Transfer from Liquor Operation Revenue Fund. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6054, subsection 4, or any other provision of law to the contrary, and in addition to any amount authorized to be transferred in fiscal years 2021-22 or 2022-23, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank shall transfer \$30,000,000 during fiscal year 2021-22 and \$56,000,000 during fiscal year 2022-23 from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund, established in Title 30-A, section 6054, subsection 1, to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Sec. 2. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus to Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2022, the State Controller shall transfer \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of a one-time, supplemental payment for the unanticipated fiscal and operational costs to the general assistance program during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department shall distribute funds under this section proportionally to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State based on the general assistance costs incurred by that municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during fiscal year 2020-21. A municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State may use funds received under this section to offset potential reductions in federal funding in fiscal year 2022-23, potential reductions in funding related to the end of the public health emergency and other unanticipated costs incurred by the municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department shall distribute funds under this section as a lump-sum distribution to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State.

Sec. 3. Review of general assistance program. The Department of Health and Human Services shall review long-term improvements to the general assistance program.

SENATE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns 0130**


Initiative: Provides one-time allocation for supplemental payments to municipalities for the unanticipated fiscal and operational costs of the general assistance program related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$10,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$10,000,000

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. It transfers \$30,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$56,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund. The amendment provides for a one-time transfer of \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance, Other Special Revenue Funds account. The amendment requires the department to distribute the funds proportionally to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State based on the general assistance costs incurred by that municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during fiscal year 2020-21. It provides that a municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State may use funds to offset potential reductions in federal funding in fiscal year 2022-23, potential reductions in funding related to the end of the public health emergency and other unanticipated costs incurred by the municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department is required to distribute the funds as a lump-sum distribution to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State. The amendment also directs the department to review long-term improvements to the general assistance program.

33 **SPONSORED BY:** 
34 (Senator BREEN, C.)
35 **COUNTY: Cumberland**

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)**



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 910

LR 284(04)

An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement

Fiscal Note for Senate Amendment "A" to Original Bill (S-609)
Sponsor: Sen. Breen of Cumberland
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	(\$1,685,442)	(\$1,685,442)	(\$1,685,442)	(\$1,685,442)
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	(\$1,685,442)	(\$1,685,442)	(\$1,685,442)	(\$1,685,442)
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0
Transfers				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This amendment strikes the General Fund appropriation from the bill and replaces it with a one-time Other Special Revenue Funds allocation to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for supplemental payments to municipalities for the unanticipated fiscal and operational costs of the general assistance program related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also includes a transfer of \$10,000,000, by June 30th, 2022, from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund within the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to the unappropriated surplus of the general fund and a transfer of \$10,000,000 by June 30th 2022, from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns, Other Special Revenue Fund.