

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1555

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H.P. 1160

House of Representatives, April 22, 2021

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### **An Act To Fund Broadband Internet Infrastructure for Marginalized Groups in the State**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on April 20, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft,  
GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, KESSLER of South Portland, Senators: LAWRENCE of York,  
VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

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

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

4 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

5 **Office of Broadband Development Z245**

6 Initiative: Appropriates funds to the ConnectMaine Authority for the provision of  
7 broadband Internet infrastructure to benefit marginalized groups, including historically  
8 disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal communities, individuals who were formerly  
9 incarcerated or are unhoused, individuals in substance use disorder recovery and low-  
10 income individuals. The ConnectMaine Authority shall consult with organizations  
11 representing these marginalized groups when making determinations regarding the  
12 distribution of these funds.

13	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
14	All Other	\$15,000,000	\$0
15			
16	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$15,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill appropriates \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the ConnectMaine  
19 Authority for the provision of broadband Internet infrastructure to benefit marginalized  
20 groups. The ConnectMaine Authority is directed to consult with organizations representing  
21 marginalized groups, including historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal  
22 communities, individuals who were formerly incarcerated or are unhoused, individuals in  
23 substance use disorder recovery and low-income individuals, when making determinations  
24 regarding the distribution of these funds.