

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1785

Date: 3/28/22

(Filing No. S-467)

**MINORITY**

**INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 623, L.D. 1785, "An Act To Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs through Economic Incentives"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Create the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program'**

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

**'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 419-E is enacted to read:**

**CHAPTER 419-E**

**MAINE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKERS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**§11681. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**1. Authority.** "Authority" means the Finance Authority of Maine.

**2. Corrections officer.** "Corrections officer" has the same meaning as in Title 25, section 1611, subsection 1-B.

**3. Emergency medical dispatcher.** "Emergency medical dispatcher" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 85-A, subsection 1, paragraph D.

**4. Emergency medical services person.** "Emergency medical services person" means a person who routinely provides emergency medical treatment to the sick or injured and is licensed in accordance with Title 32, section 85, subsections 3 and 4.

**5. Firefighter.** "Firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 25, section 1611, subsection 4.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 6. Fund. "Fund" means the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program  
 2 Fund established under section 11683.

3 7. Law enforcement officer. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in  
 4 Title 25, section 1611, subsection 5.

5 8. Program. "Program" means the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment  
 6 Program established under section 11682, subsection 1.

7 9. Public safety worker. "Public safety worker" means a corrections officer,  
 8 emergency medical dispatcher, emergency medical services person, firefighter or law  
 9 enforcement officer.

10 **§11682. Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program**

11 1. Establishment. The Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program is  
 12 established within the authority for the purpose of attracting and retaining qualified public  
 13 safety workers. The authority shall administer the program.

14 2. Eligibility. To be considered eligible for loan repayment pursuant to subsection 4,  
 15 an applicant must, at a minimum:

16 A. Be a current resident of the State or become a resident of the State within 6 months  
 17 of being selected as a recipient under the program;

18 B. Be currently employed as a public safety worker within the State or become  
 19 employed as a public safety worker within the State within 6 months of being selected  
 20 as a recipient under the program; and

21 C. Possess an outstanding student loan.

22 3. Application. An application to the program must be made directly to the authority  
 23 at a time and in a format to be determined by the authority.

24 4. Maximum loan repayment. The maximum loan repayment amount available to a  
 25 recipient under the program is \$3,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years.

26 **§11683. Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund**

27 The Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund is established  
 28 within the authority as a nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund to carry out the  
 29 purposes of this chapter. The authority may receive, invest and expend on behalf of the  
 30 fund money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to money appropriated  
 31 or allocated by the State. Money in the fund must be used for the designated purposes of  
 32 the fund and for the payment of administrative costs incurred by the authority for the  
 33 operation of the program. Any unexpended balance in the fund carries forward for  
 34 continued use under this chapter.

35 **§11684. Rules**

36 The authority shall establish rules necessary to implement this chapter. Rules adopted  
 37 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
 38 subchapter 2-A.

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

41 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

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**Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund N416**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide student loan repayment of up to \$3,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years per recipient to public safety workers who live and work in the State.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	\$0	\$2,000,000

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

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program in the Finance Authority of Maine. The program provides student loan repayment to public safety workers who live and work in the State. Under the program, the authority pays up to \$3,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years of a recipient's outstanding loan balance. The amendment establishes the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund for the program and appropriates a one-time amount of \$2,000,000 to the fund.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1785

LR 2431(03)

## An Act To Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs through Economic Incentives

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "B'(S-467)"  
 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
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 to a newly established Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund within the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) to provide student loan repayment of up to \$3,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years to eligible public safety workers in the State. This bill authorizes FAME to use monies in the fund to pay for the costs to administer the program. Therefore, no additional General Fund appropriations are required to support the operation of the program.