

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1785

S.P. 623

In Senate, December 9, 2021

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

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland and
Senators: CURRY of Waldo, HICKMAN of Kennebec, MIRAMANT of Knox, RAFFERTY
of York, Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, DUNPHY of Old Town, O'CONNELL of
Brewer.

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

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

3 **CHAPTER 419-E**

4 **FUND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICE STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS**

5 **§11681. Fund To Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness**

6 The Fund To Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness is established as a
7 nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and control of the Finance Authority of Maine. All
8 revenues credited to this fund must be distributed for the purpose of student loan
9 forgiveness based on need for residents of the State who are local and county law
10 enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and
11 public health workers. The Finance Authority of Maine shall award funds for the purpose
12 of student loan forgiveness and adopt rules for determining eligibility, terms and conditions
13 of student loan forgiveness. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical
14 rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Interest earned on amounts in the
15 fund may be used for the costs of administering the distribution of funds for the purpose of
16 student loan forgiveness.

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

19 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

20 **Fund To Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness**

21 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Fund To Provide Public Service Student Loan
22 Forgiveness.

23 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
24 All Other	\$0	\$5,000,000
25		
26 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

27 **Finance Authority of Maine 0582**

28 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide no-
29 interest home mortgages to local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters,
30 emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers while they are
31 serving in those positions.

32 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
33 All Other	\$0	\$5,000,000
34		
35 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

36

37 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

38 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS** **2021-22** **2022-23**

39

1	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$10,000,000
2			
3	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$10,000,000

4

SUMMARY

5 This bill establishes the Fund To Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness in
6 the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for student loan forgiveness for local and
7 county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons,
8 dispatchers and public health workers. It appropriates \$5,000,000 to the fund. It also
9 appropriates \$5,000,000 to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide no-interest home
10 mortgages to local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical
11 services persons, dispatchers and public health workers while they are serving in those
12 positions.