

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 15

H.P. 19

House of Representatives, December 30, 2022

**An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program
Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission**

Submitted by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered
printed.

Robert B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §505, sub-§2, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 585, §2, is amended
3 to read:

4 D. The director may administer a program of state financed grants for the ~~stabilization~~
5 preservation and restoration of ~~unique historic structures~~ properties consistent with the
6 following conditions.

7 (1) An applicant for a grant must be either a governmental or a nonprofit
8 organization.

9 (2) The historic ~~structure which property~~ property that is the subject of the grant application
10 must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places as ~~provided~~ authorized
11 by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 or have been nominated to the
12 register by the commission.

13 (3) An applicant must provide assurance that public access to the ~~structure~~ historic
14 property will be reasonably provided with respect to admission fees, visitation
15 hours and physical accessibility, while maintaining the ~~historical~~ historic integrity
16 of the ~~structure~~ historic property.

17 (4) Applications must address, to the satisfaction of the commission, the
18 applicant's organizational and financial capacity to provide long-term maintenance
19 of ~~that structure which~~ the historic property that is the subject of the application.

20 (5) Grants ~~shall~~ may not exceed 50% of the total expense of the proposed project,
21 except that grants to ~~this~~ the State may be 100% of the total expense of the proposed
22 project.

23 (6) All grants ~~shall be~~ are subject to final approval, by the commission.

24 (7) Prior to final approval, the commission may require the applicant to execute a
25 covenant to secure continued public access to and maintenance of the historic
26 integrity of the ~~structure~~, and a right of first refusal for the State historic property.

27 With respect to the quality of work to be performed through this grant program, the
28 commission and the director ~~shall~~ must be guided by the United States Secretary of the
29 Interior's Standards for ~~Rehabilitation~~ the Treatment of Historic Properties.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill amends certain provisions of the law governing the state grant program
32 administered by the director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The changes
33 include changing the term "historic structure" to "historic property."