

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 568

S.P. 239

In Senate, February 9, 2023

**An Act to Provide Funding for the Fund to Address Food Insecurity
and Provide Nutrition Incentives**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested 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 POULIOT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren and
Senators: BLACK of Franklin, HICKMAN of Kennebec, President JACKSON of Aroostook,
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next
4 fiscal year; and

5 **Whereas,** nutrition incentives and nutrition assistance programs benefit Maine
6 residents in all 16 counties, and state funding will allow further expansion to rural and
7 underserved communities in Maine; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore,

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

13 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §219-B, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 468, §1, is amended to
14 read:

15 **1. Fund established.** The Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition
16 Incentives, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department to
17 provide incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the
18 purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and
19 administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and
20 nutrition assistance programs. The fund is established to match contributions from private
21 and public sources of up to \$50,000 annually to further the purposes of this section. The
22 fund, to be accounted within the department, must be held separate and apart from all other
23 money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund
24 become part of the assets of the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at
25 the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.
26 For purposes of this section, "local" means within the State.

27 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
28 allocations are made.

29 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**
30 **Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives Z329**
31 Initiative: Provides ongoing appropriations to fund nutrition incentives and nutrition
32 assistance programs.

33 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
34 All Other	\$600,000	\$600,000
35		
36 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$600,000</u>	<u>\$600,000</u>

37 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
38 takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$600,000 to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bill also removes the \$50,000 limit on matching contributions from the fund criteria.