

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 2/20/24

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APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 423, L.D. 646, "An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government"

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

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'An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program'

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Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

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Whereas, certain municipalities have not been fully reimbursed for lost revenue resulting from underfunding of the property tax stabilization for senior citizens program established pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 751 and amended by Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part S, section 10 to apply only to the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023; and

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Whereas, the lost revenue may have an immediate and material effect on municipalities; and

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Whereas, due to these immediate and material effects on municipalities, this legislation requires the State Controller to transfer funds in March and June of 2024; and

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

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

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'Sec. 1. Transfer to Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before March 1, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$15,000,000 from

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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1 the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and
 2 Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program, Other Special Revenue Funds
 3 account to fully reimburse municipalities for lost revenue under the property tax
 4 stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 6281 in the
 5 property tax year beginning April 1, 2023 only.

6 **Sec. 2. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Property Tax**
 7 **Stabilization - Mandate program.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
 8 contrary, on or before June 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$50,000 from the
 9 unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and
 10 Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate program, Other Special Revenue
 11 Funds account for the purposes of funding the reimbursements to municipalities for the
 12 state-mandated costs related to implementation and administration of the property tax
 13 stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 6281.

14 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 15 allocations are made.

16 **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
 17 **Property Tax Stabilization Z368**

18 Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to fully reimburse municipalities for lost revenue
 19 under the property tax stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36,
 20 section 6281.

21	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
22	All Other	\$15,000,000	\$0
23			
24	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$15,000,000	\$0

25 **Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate Z369**

26 Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to reimburse municipalities for state-mandated
 27 costs related to implementation and administration of the property tax stabilization program
 28 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 6281.

29	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
30	All Other	\$50,000	\$0
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32	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$50,000	\$0

34 **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL**
 35 **SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
 36 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

37		2023-24	2024-25
38	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$15,050,000	\$0
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40	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$15,050,000	\$0

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 42 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

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

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and changes the title and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It transfers \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to be used to fully reimburse municipalities for revenue lost under the property tax stabilization program for senior citizens. It also transfers \$50,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate program to reimburse municipalities for implementation and administrative costs of the property tax stabilization program. The property tax stabilization program was amended in 2023 to apply only to the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 646

LR 1194(02)

An Act to Provide Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-755)

Committee: Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$15,050,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$15,050,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers				
General Fund	(\$15,050,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$15,050,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill transfers \$15,000,000, on or before March 1, 2024, from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to be used to fully reimburse municipalities for revenue lost under the program. The bill also transfers \$50,000, on or before June 30, 2024, from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to be used to reimburse municipalities for state mandated costs related to implementation and administration of the program.