

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 648

S.P. 265

In Senate, February 14, 2023

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### **An Act to Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs Through Economic Incentives**

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Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business 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 BALDACCI of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: O'CONNELL of Brewer, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor.

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 for and terms and  
13 conditions of student loan forgiveness. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine  
14 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Interest earned on  
15 amounts in the fund may be used for the costs of administering the distribution of funds for  
16 the purpose of student loan forgiveness.

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

19 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

20 **Finance Authority of Maine 0582**

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

|    |                           |                    |                |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 25 | <b>GENERAL FUND</b>       | <b>2023-24</b>     | <b>2024-25</b> |
| 26 | All Other                 | \$5,000,000        | \$0            |
| 27 |                           |                    |                |
| 28 | <b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b> | <b>\$5,000,000</b> | <b>\$0</b>     |

29 **Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness N421**

30 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan  
31 Forgiveness.

|    |                           |                    |                |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 32 | <b>GENERAL FUND</b>       | <b>2023-24</b>     | <b>2024-25</b> |
| 33 | All Other                 | \$5,000,000        | \$0            |
| 34 |                           |                    |                |
| 35 | <b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b> | <b>\$5,000,000</b> | <b>\$0</b>     |

36

37 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

|    |                          |                |                |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 38 | <b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|

39

|   |                                     |                     |            |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | <b>GENERAL FUND</b>                 | <b>\$10,000,000</b> | <b>\$0</b> |
| 2 |                                     |                     |            |
| 3 | <b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b> | <b>\$10,000,000</b> | <b>\$0</b> |

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.