

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1115

H.P. 711

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

An Act Regarding Economic Development Funds for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, LANDRY of Farmington, PARRY of Arundel, Senators:
BRENNER of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, DUSON of Cumberland, LAWRENCE of
York, POULIOT of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13073, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 534, Pt. A, §§17 and
3 19, is amended to read:

4 **4. Legislative allocation of fund required.** The Department of Economic and
5 Community Development shall submit to the Legislature, through the budget process as
6 required by chapter 149, its recommendations for disbursement from the fund. The
7 recommendations must ensure that 10% of the available funds is provided on an equitable
8 basis to the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State.

9 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13073, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 534, Pt. A, §§17 and
10 19, is amended to read:

11 **5. Expenditures from fund.** Upon approval of the allocation by the Legislature and
12 approval of the allotment by the Governor, the State Controller shall authorize expenditures
13 from the fund as approved by the department for the following purposes:

- 14 A. Administrative expenses related to the fund;
- 15 B. Grants to cities and towns under the fund; ~~and~~
- 16 C. Grants related to the fund and to other public and private organizations; and
- 17 D. Grants to federally recognized Indian tribes in this State in accordance with
18 subsection 4.

19 **Sec. 3. New Markets Tax Credit Program access.** The Department of
20 Economic and Community Development shall develop, in consultation with federally
21 recognized Indian tribes in this State, a plan for ensuring those tribes have equitable access
22 to the New Markets Tax Credit Program administered through the United States
23 Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill:

26 1. Provides for 10% of the available funds in the Community Development Block
27 Grant Program to be provided on an equitable basis to the federally recognized Indian tribes
28 in this State; and

29 2. Directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop, in
30 consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, a plan for ensuring those
31 tribes have equitable access to the New Markets Tax Credit Program administered through
32 the United States Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial
33 Institutions Fund.