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Date 5/17/23 Minority

L D 1169
(Filing No H-158)

**INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND
BUSINESS**

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H P 741, L.D 1169, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program"

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

'Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§9, ¶A, as corrected by RR 2019, c 2, Pt A, §13, is amended to read

A A loan to any individual for eligible costs may not exceed \$700 \$2,000, but this limit may be adjusted upward at least biannually by the authority to reflect inflation or cost of living or other necessary adjustments

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§9, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2019, c 447, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read

(2) Repayment of a loan may not be required until at least ~~60 days~~ 6 months after the recipient of the loan has ~~obtained a work permit, except that, if the recipient of the loan has obtained a work permit but has not obtained employment, repayment may not be required until at least 30 days after the recipient has obtained employment as long as the recipient is in compliance with not ineligible for assistance under the provisions of Title 22, section 4316-A~~ ' not ineligible for assistance under the provisions of Title 22, section 4316-A '

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill The amendment increases the maximum loan to an individual under the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H P 741, L D 1169

1 Program from \$700 to \$2,000 and provides that a recipient may not be required to repay
2 the loan until at least 6 months after the recipient has obtained employment

3

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

4

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1169

LR 614(02)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *B (H-158)*
Committee: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Increases amount of interest-free loan - Finance Authority of Maine

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Public Law 2019, chapter 447 established the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program, administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) to provide interest-free loans of up to \$700 to eligible immigrants who need assistance while awaiting federal employment authorization. The loan program has received General Fund appropriations of \$75,000 per year since fiscal year 2019-20 and Public Law 2023, chapter 17 continues the annual appropriations through the 2024-2025 biennium. According to FAME, only one \$700 loan has been requested and issued since the program began and the program fund currently has an unspent balance of \$300,000.

This bill proposes to increase the maximum loan amount available to qualified applicants from \$700 to \$2,000 and extends the loan repayment period from 60 days to 6 months. Given the unspent balance in the program fund and General Fund appropriations included in Public Law 2023, chapter 17, no additional funding to support the grant program will be required through the 2024-2025 biennium.