

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1206

H.P. 766

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

An Act to Create a Grant Program for Workplace Health and Safety Improvements

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §572** is enacted to read:

3 **§572. Workplace health and safety grant program**

4 **1. Workplace health and safety grant program.** The Department of Labor shall
5 administer a grant program to issue grants of up to \$5,000 to employers in the State to make
6 health and safety improvements at workplaces with 15 or fewer full-time employees. The
7 department shall also provide resources to obtain health-related and safety-related
8 equipment and training that support healthy and safe work environments and reduce the
9 risk of injury and illness to workers.

10 **2. Workplace Health and Safety Grant Fund.** The Workplace Health and Safety
11 Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established and administered by the
12 Department of Labor. The fund's purpose is to provide funds to carry out the grant program
13 in subsection 1. The fund may receive funds from appropriations, allocations, donations,
14 grants and other public or private sources. The fund is interest-bearing and interest
15 generated by the fund must be credited to the fund. Funds in the fund at the end of the fiscal
16 year do not lapse but must carry over to the next fiscal year. The department may pay from
17 the fund reasonable department expenses in administering the fund.

18 **3. Rules.** The Department of Labor shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this
19 section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5,
20 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the Department of Labor to administer a grant program and fund that
23 provides up to \$5,000 for employers to pay for health and safety improvements at
24 workplaces with 15 or fewer full-time employees and to provide resources to obtain health-
25 related and safety-related equipment and training.