

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1897

S.P. 769

In Senate, May 9, 2023

An Act to Improve Public Roadways on Unbridged Islands Not Served by the Maine State Ferry Service

Reference to the Committee on Transportation 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 GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Senator: RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, EATON of Deer Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §710** is enacted to read:

3 **§710. Island Road Maintenance Fund**

4 **1. Fund established.** The Island Road Maintenance Fund, referred to in this section
5 as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund in the Department of Transportation.

6 **2. Use of funds.** Money deposited in the fund may be used by the Department of
7 Transportation to provide grants to support public road maintenance for inhabited,
8 unbridged island municipalities that are not served by the Maine State Ferry Service.

9 **3. Source of funds.** Money deposited in the fund includes, but is not limited to,
10 revenue appropriated to the fund. The fund may accept funds from other sources.

11 **4. Limit.** The balance in the fund may not exceed \$5,000,000.

12 **5. Rules.** The Department of Transportation shall adopt routine technical rules as
13 described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A governing the making of grants from the
14 fund to qualifying municipalities, with applications reviewed at least once annually. The
15 rules must provide that, when considering grant applications, the department must give
16 preference to projects on islands that have a limited property tax base to support
17 maintenance of public roads and projects that seek or have been granted funds from the
18 Federal Government.

19 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
20 allocations are made.

21 **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

22 **Island Road Maintenance Fund N341**

23 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for public road maintenance for inhabited, unbridged
24 island municipalities.

25 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
26 All Other	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
27		
28 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill establishes the Island Road Maintenance Fund in the Department of
31 Transportation to support public road maintenance for inhabited, unbridged island
32 municipalities that are not served by the Maine State Ferry Service. In making grants from
33 the fund, the department must give preference to projects on islands that have a limited
34 property tax base to support maintenance of public roads and projects that seek or have
35 been granted funds from the Federal Government. The bill appropriates \$2,000,000 to the
36 fund.