

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2102**

H.P. 1417

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

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**An Act to Clarify and Strengthen the Government Shutdown Loan  
Guarantee Program**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

*R. B. Hunt*  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.  
Cosponsored by President DAUGTRY of Cumberland and  
Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of  
Westbrook, Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot.

1                   **Emergency preamble.** **Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3                   **Whereas**, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day  
4 period in order to provide protection as soon as possible to employees who are not being  
5 paid during a government shutdown; and

6                   **Whereas**, this protection for these employees is necessary to prevent missed rent and  
7 mortgage payments, food insecurity and the loss of health care coverage; and

8                   **Whereas**, agencies responsible for administering the Government Shutdown Loan  
9 Guarantee Program need immediate authority to adjust staffing and communicate with  
10 participating credit unions and financial institutions in order to prevent confusion and  
11 inefficiency; and

12                  **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
13 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
14 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
15 therefore,

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

17                  **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1100-JJ, sub-§1, ¶C** is enacted to read:

18                  **C. The eligibility of an affected employee is not dependent on:**

19                  (1) The affected employee applying for unemployment compensation benefits;

20                  (2) A credit check;

21                  (3) The membership of the affected employee at a credit union or the status of the  
22 affected employee as a customer of a financial institution to which the affected  
23 employee is applying for a loan; or

24                  (4) The ability of the affected employee to appear in person, as long as the affected  
25 employee can prove that the affected employee is a resident of this State and a  
26 member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard who is  
27 stationed outside of this State.

28                  **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1100-LL, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 494, §2, is  
29 repealed.

30                  **Sec. 3. Transfer.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State  
31 Controller shall transfer \$250,000 from the Department of Professional and Financial  
32 Regulation, Bureau of Financial Institutions, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the  
33 Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program Fund, established within the Office of the  
34 Treasurer of State pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 160, no later  
35 than 14 days following the effective date of this Act to be used to guarantee the repayment  
36 of loans made by an eligible financial institution to an eligible affected employee pursuant  
37 to Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter 15.

38                  **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
39 allocations are made.

40                  **TREASURER OF STATE, OFFICE OF**

1                   **Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program Fund Z433**

2                   Initiative: Provides one-time allocation of \$250,000 to the Government Shutdown Loan  
3                   Guarantee Program Fund to assist with guaranteeing repayment of a portion of loans made  
4                   by eligible financial institutions and credit unions to federal or state employees affected by  
5                   government shutdowns.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$250,000	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

10                   **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation  
11                   takes effect when approved.

12                   **SUMMARY**

13                   This bill amends the laws governing the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee  
14                   Program by amending the provisions regarding eligibility for loans and removing language  
15                   that provides that if the amount expended for loan guarantee payments equals or exceeds  
16                   10% of the total of all loans issued, the Finance Authority of Maine must stop approving  
17                   claims and notify the Treasurer of State and each eligible financial institution of the total  
18                   amount of loan guarantee payments made and that the authority has ceased honoring loan  
19                   claims. It also allocates \$250,000 to the program.