

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2023

Sec. 4. Department of Education responsibilities. The Department of Education, referred to in this section as "the department," shall inform the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education on progress relating to the expansion of public preschools, and the department shall:

1. Develop a plan to align the credentials and training earned through the Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network with those earned through the Department of Education early childhood education certification. The department, through a professional development and certification stakeholder working group, shall develop a plan that includes the following components:

A. The development of a competency-based credential that recognizes experience, cumulative elective training hours and a demonstration of knowledge and skills in early childhood teaching practices;

B. Reciprocity for credit for or training hours toward certification from other states and countries;

C. A Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network career lattice to align with department educator credentials and that considers credentials obtained in the absence of college course work of the same content;

D. Eligibility of family child care providers who hold and maintain national accreditation standards accepted by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services as publicly funded preschool locations; and

E. Collaborating with local adult education providers, apprenticeship sponsors, career and technical education programs, the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System to create articulation agreements between these entities for the transfer of credits for course work related to early childhood education and to facilitate enrollment in courses that lead to the awarding of a postsecondary degree by an accredited institution of higher education; and

2. Report to the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on progress relating to public preschool expansion, including establishing state and community partnerships for a mixed delivery of child care and early childhood education programs and services through community and school-based providers by November 15, 2023.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 478
S.P. 727 - L.D. 1802**

**An Act to Include Certain
Volunteer Firefighters in the
Tax Credit for Employers of
Individuals Who Are Volunteer
Firefighters or Volunteer
Municipal Emergency Medical
Services Persons**

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3151, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6 and c. 9, §2 and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Municipal firefighter. "Municipal firefighter" means an active member, whether full-time, part-time or on call, of a municipal fire department, who aids in the extinguishment of fires or an individual who receives compensation from the municipality for aiding in the extinguishment of fires. "Municipal firefighter" includes a volunteer municipal firefighter.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §3151, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Volunteer municipal firefighter. "Volunteer municipal firefighter" means a part-time or on-call municipal firefighter who receives up to 20% of the compensation of a full-time municipal firefighter and who may receive injury and death benefits.

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §5217-F, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 731, §5, is amended to read:

§5217-F. Employer support for volunteer firefighters and volunteer municipal emergency medical services persons and volunteer municipal firefighters

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, an employer who employs an individual who is a volunteer firefighter, ~~as defined in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 4,~~ or a volunteer municipal emergency medical services person ~~or, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, a volunteer municipal firefighter~~ and who permits that employee to respond to fire calls or emergency medical services calls, as appropriate, during hours when the employee is scheduled to work without a reduction in pay is eligible for a credit against the tax imposed by this Part equal to the compensation that is paid to the employee at the employee's regular rate of pay during the time when the employee is away from work due to firefighting or emergency response responsibilities. For the purposes of this subsection, "volunteer firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 4; "volunteer municipal emergency medical services person" means an

emergency medical services person as defined in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12 who responds to emergency medical services calls from a municipality and who receives no compensation from the municipality other than injury and death benefits; and "volunteer municipal firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 5.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 479

H.P. 1176 - L.D. 1844

An Act to Support Emergency Housing Construction and Renovation Statewide by Creating a Matching Grant Program

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4766 is enacted to read:

§4766. Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program

1. Program established. The Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority.

2. Purpose. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to qualified providers of emergency housing and shelter services for the construction, renovation or acquisition of a new or existing building to provide emergency housing and shelter services. Grant funds may also be used to cover the costs to lease a building to provide emergency housing and shelter services.

3. Program requirements. The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish program requirements, including, but not limited to, requiring that an applicant to the program:

A. Meet the eligibility requirements of existing programs within the Maine State Housing Authority that provide funding to reimburse shelter operators that provide emergency shelter services at a fixed location;

B. Provide emergency housing and housing navigation services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in the building that is constructed, acquired, renovated or leased using grant funds; and

C. For requests greater than \$100,000, demonstrate that the applicant has secured funding from a source other than state funding to match the amount of the grant request on a one-to-one basis.

4. Request for proposals; amount of grant. The Maine State Housing Authority shall issue a request for

proposals to award grants under the program no later than January 1st of the year in which a grant will be issued and shall provide grants on an annual basis. When scoring requests for proposals, the Maine State Housing Authority shall award points favorably to applicants that propose to provide emergency housing and shelter services in geographic areas that are underserved and where the provision of those services could result in reducing the demand for emergency housing and shelter services in cities and towns in this State that serve as hubs for services for persons experiencing homelessness and in need of emergency shelter or that have a population of persons experiencing homelessness disproportionate to the housed population of the city or town. The maximum grant awarded to an applicant is determined by the Maine State Housing Authority.

5. Fund. The Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program Fund, referred to in this subsection as "the fund," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority to fund grants under the program. The fund may receive money from appropriations, allocations, donations and other sources, public and private. The fund is interest-bearing, and interest earned by the fund is credited to the fund. Money in the fund does not lapse and carries over to the next fiscal year.

6. Rules. The Maine State Housing Authority shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Request for proposals. No later than January 1, 2024, the Maine State Housing Authority shall issue a request for proposals for grants under the Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4766, for the 2024 grant year under the program.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program Fund N430

Initiative: Provides one-time appropriations for grants to homeless service providers to construct, renovate or acquire new or existing buildings to house the homeless services.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$257,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$257,000

Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program Fund N430

Initiative: Establishes ongoing base allocations to allow for the expenditure of funds if money is received from donations and other public or private sources.