



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 625

H.P. 402

House of Representatives, February 14, 2023

**An Act to Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain
Communities**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §52** is enacted to read:

3 **§52. Block grant set aside; vulnerable communities and Indian tribes**

4 Notwithstanding section 5327 or any other provision of law to the contrary, from each
5 block grant received by the department from the Federal Government, the department shall
6 annually set aside an amount equal to 20% of the total amount of the block grant to be
7 awarded to the most vulnerable communities in the State, as determined by the department
8 by rule, and an amount equal to at least 12% of the total amount of the block grant to be
9 awarded to federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and bands in the State. The
10 department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this
11 section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually set aside
14 20% of each federal block grant it receives for the most vulnerable communities in the State
15 and at least 12% of each federal block grant it receives for federally recognized Indian
16 nations, tribes and bands in the State.