



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1269

H.P. 929

House of Representatives, March 29, 2021

An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 25, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FAY of Raymond, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford,
PERRY of Calais, SYLVESTER of Portland, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: MAXMIN
of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4741, sub-§18**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. B, §3, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **18. State designee for homeless programs.** The Maine State Housing Authority is
5 designated the coordinating agency for the State for programs dealing with homeless
6 persons and may apply for, receive, distribute and administer federal, state and other funds
7 on behalf of the State for homeless programs including, without limitation, the Emergency
8 Community Services Homeless Grant Program and the programs authorized pursuant to
9 the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Public Law 100-77, (1987), as
10 amended; ~~and~~

11 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4741, sub-§19**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. B, §4, is
12 amended to read:

13 **19. State designee for National Housing Trust Fund.** The Maine State Housing
14 Authority is designated as the entity to receive and allocate funds from the National
15 Housing Trust Fund established by the federal Housing and Economic Recovery Act of
16 2008; ~~and~~

17 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4741, sub-§20** is enacted to read:

18 **20. Affirmatively further fair housing.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall
19 ensure that any federal funding or any state or local funding is used in a manner that will
20 affirmatively further fair housing in this State. For the purposes of this subsection,
21 "affirmatively further fair housing" means to engage actively in efforts to address barriers
22 to and create opportunities for full and equal access to housing without discrimination on
23 the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, physical or mental
24 disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status or receipt of public assistance.

25 **Sec. 4. Report to the Legislature.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall
26 develop a plan to ensure public funds are used to affirmatively further fair housing in this
27 State in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4741, subsection
28 20 and report the development of that plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and
29 Housing by January 15, 2022. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing may
30 report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th
31 Legislature.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to ensure that public funds are
34 used to affirmatively further fair housing, which is defined as to engage actively in efforts
35 to address barriers to and create opportunities for full and equal access to housing without
36 discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity,
37 physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status or receipt of
38 public assistance. The bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to develop a plan
39 and report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing by January 15,
40 2022.