



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1697

S.P. 552

In Senate, May 12, 2021

**An Act To Establish a Homeowner Assistance Fund Program and
Provide for the Distribution of Funds**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on May 10, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 BREEN of Cumberland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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,** the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, provides
 4 funding for the Homeowner Assistance Fund; and

5 **Whereas,** amounts identified for the Homeowner Assistance Fund will be provided
 6 to the State for distribution before the expiration of the 90 days; and

7 **Whereas,** according to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the funds are
 8 intended to prevent mortgage delinquencies and defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or
 9 home energy services and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship;
 10 and

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

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

16 **Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 17 allocations are made.

18 **PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
 19 **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Homeowner Assistance Fund NEW**

20 Initiative: Provides one-time allocations necessary to distribute funds from the
 21 Homeowner Assistance Fund authorized in the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

22 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	23 2020-21	24 2021-22	25 2022-23
26 - ARP			
27 All Other	\$500	\$50,000,000	\$500
28 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND -	\$500	\$50,000,000	\$500
29 ARP TOTAL			

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

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill establishes the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Homeowner Assistance
 Fund program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to receive
 and distribute funds received pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.