An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program
Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Submitted by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204. Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §505, sub-§2, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 585, §2, is amended to read:

D. The director may administer a program of state financed grants for the stabilization, preservation and restoration of unique historic structures, properties consistent with the following conditions:

   (1) An applicant for a grant must be either a governmental or a nonprofit organization.

   (2) The historic structure or property that is the subject of the grant application must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places as provided, authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 or have been nominated to the register by the commission.

   (3) An applicant must provide assurance that public access to the historic structure or property will be reasonably provided with respect to admission fees, visitation hours and physical accessibility, while maintaining the historical integrity of the structure or historic property.

   (4) Applications must address, to the satisfaction of the commission, the applicant’s organizational and financial capacity to provide long-term maintenance of the historic property that is the subject of the application.

   (5) Grants may not exceed 50% of the total expense of the proposed project, except that grants to the State may be 100% of the total expense of the proposed project.

   (6) All grants shall be subject to final approval, by the commission.

   (7) Prior to final approval, the commission may require the applicant to execute a covenant to secure continued public access to and maintenance of the historic integrity of the structure, and a right of first refusal for the State historic property.

With respect to the quality of work to be performed through this grant program, the commission and the director shall be guided by the United States Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation Treatment of Historic Properties.

SUMMARY

This bill amends certain provisions of the law governing the state grant program administered by the director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The changes include changing the term "historic structure" to "historic property."