



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 238

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H.P. 159

House of Representatives, January 20, 2023

**An Act to Create a Program for Mortgage Assistance for Persons  
with Illnesses Related to COVID-19**

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Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13056-K** is enacted to read:

3 **§13056-K. COVID-19 Illness Mortgage Assistance Program**

4 **1. Program established; administration.** The COVID-19 Illness Mortgage  
5 Assistance Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the  
6 department to provide mortgage assistance to homeowners who are unable to pay a  
7 mortgage due to hardship resulting from illnesses related to coronavirus disease 2019, also  
8 known as COVID-19. The department shall administer the program.

9 **2. COVID-19 Illness Mortgage Assistance Fund.** The COVID-19 Illness Mortgage  
10 Assistance Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a fund within the  
11 department for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money  
12 appropriated to the fund by the Legislature and any money received by the department for  
13 the purposes of the program.

14 **3. Grants.** The department shall solicit applications for grants from the fund and award  
15 grants from the fund based on criteria set forth in rules adopted by the department.

16 **4. Program reporting.** A recipient of grant funds through the program shall cooperate  
17 with the department in performing reporting requirements.

18 **5. Rulemaking.** The department shall establish by rule the criteria for eligibility for  
19 grants from the program and the process of application. Rules adopted pursuant to this  
20 subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill creates the COVID-19 Illness Mortgage Assistance Program within the  
23 Department of Economic and Community Development to provide mortgage assistance to  
24 homeowners who are unable to pay a mortgage due to hardship resulting from illnesses  
25 related to COVID-19.