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Legislative Document

No. 343

H.P. 241

House of Representatives, February 8, 2021

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representative: MARTIN of Greene.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §51** is enacted to read:

3 **§51. 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.