



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1422

H.P. 918

House of Representatives, March 30, 2023

An Act to End Homelessness and Assist Students Who Are Homeless by Establishing a Housing Voucher Program and Providing Site-based Housing Services

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COLLINGS of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland,
LOOKNER of Portland, MEYER of Eliot, PERRY of Calais, SHAGOURY of Hallowell,
TERRY of Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 14** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 14**

4 **VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS**

5 **§4994-A. Voucher program for homeless students**

6 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
7 following terms have the following meanings.

8 A. "Elementary school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection
9 10.

10 B. "Homeless student" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection
11 13-A.

12 C. "Secondary school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection
13 33.

14 **2. Program established.** The authority shall establish a housing voucher program for
15 homeless students in elementary school and secondary school. The authority shall adopt
16 rules to implement this program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine
17 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

18 **Sec. 2. Site-based housing program.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall
19 identify 3 sites in the State to be used for a program under the authority of the Department
20 of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive support services to provide
21 and maintain housing to an individual in the individual's residence.

22 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
23 allocations are made.

24 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
25 **Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307**

26 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for 3 new sites in the State to provide comprehensive
27 support services to provide and maintain housing to an individual in the individual's
28 residence.

29 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
30 All Other	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
31		
32 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$3,500,000</u>	<u>\$3,500,000</u>

33
34 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,**
35 **DEPARTMENT OF**
36 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

37	2023-24	2024-25
38 GENERAL FUND	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000

1			
2	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$3,500,000</u>	<u>\$3,500,000</u>
3	HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE		
4	Housing Voucher Program for Homeless Students N432		
5	Initiative: Provides one-time funding for housing vouchers for homeless students in		
6	elementary school and secondary school.		
7	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
8	All Other	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
9			
10	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
11			
12	HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE		
13	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
14			
15	GENERAL FUND	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
16			
17	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
18			
19	SECTION TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
20			
21	GENERAL FUND	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000
22			
23	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$5,500,000</u>	<u>\$5,500,000</u>

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SUMMARY

25 This bill establishes a housing voucher program for homeless students under the

26 authority of the Maine State Housing Authority and appropriates one-time funding of \$2

27 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The bill directs the Maine State Housing

28 Authority to identify 3 sites in Maine to be used for a site-based housing program and

29 appropriates one-time funding of \$3.5 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the

30 Department of Health and Human Services to support the program.