

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
H.P. 1378 - L.D. 1868

An Act To Restore Funding to the State's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation restores funding to Maine's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, which recently had its funding reduced; and

Whereas, Maine has the highest adult smoking rate in the Northeast and, like the rest of the nation, is experiencing a youth tobacco use epidemic; and

Whereas, smoking is the leading preventable risk factor for many of the leading causes of death of Maine people, including cancer, heart disease, lung disease and stroke, and increases an individual's risk for severe illness from COVID-19; and

Whereas, tobacco use costs Maine \$811 million in health care bills each year, including approximately \$262 million in state Medicaid costs; each Maine household pays an additional \$1,066 in state and federal taxes from smoking-caused government expenditures; and smoking costs Maine \$647 million in productivity losses; and

Whereas, adequate funding for comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs leads to greater reductions in smoking, and the longer states adequately invest in such programs, the greater the impact; and

Whereas, the reduction in funding has resulted in declines in funding for surveillance and evaluation, counter-marketing campaigns, eliminating tobacco-related health disparities and tobacco treatment; and

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

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143**

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program to achieve a level of funding provided for the program that meets the funding level recommended for this State by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pursuant to its determination for state tobacco control programs, as long as the available funds in the Fund for a Healthy Maine allow that level of funding.

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$7,500,000
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$0	\$7,500,000

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