1	L.D. 492
2	Date: (Filing No. S- )
3 4	INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS
5	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.
6	STATE OF MAINE
7	SENATE
8	130TH LEGISLATURE
9	FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
0	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to S.P. 200, L.D. 492, "An Act To Create a Regional Grant Program To Help Rural Businesses Find Qualified Staff"
2	Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:
4	'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13056-I is enacted to read:
.5	§13056-I. Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Program
6 .7 .8 .9 .9 .0 .1 .22	1. Program established. The Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the department to provide grants for local economic development initiatives in rural regions of the State that will assist rural businesses in those regions in locating, recruiting and retaining qualified staff to meet workforce needs. For the purpose of this section, "rural regions of the State" means Aroostook County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and Washington County.
23 24 25 26 27	2. Fund established. The Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund within the department for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature and any funds received by the department for the purposes of the program.
28 29 30 31 32	3. Rulemaking. The department shall establish by rule the criteria for eligibility for grants from the program and the process of application. The rules must require that an entity receiving a grant for an initiative secure matching funds for the initiative on a one-to-one basis. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
33 34	4. Reporting. The department shall report by January 15th of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development

matters on the program, including the number of grants given and the results achieved.

35

**GENERAL FUND** 

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

## ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

## Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund N363

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize the expenditure of any funds received from outside sources to provide grants for local economic development initiatives in rural regions of the State.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

## Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund N363

Initiative: Provides one-time funds of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for eligible local economic development initiatives to advertise and promote jobs in rural regions of the State and to locate and retain qualified staff. Funding appropriated to this program does not lapse but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year to be used only for the purpose for which it was provided.

2021-22

2022-23

All Other	\$200,000	\$300,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$200,000	\$300,000
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF		
DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2021-22	2022-23
GENERAL FUND	\$200,000	\$300,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$200,500	\$300,500

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

34 SUMMARY

This amendment changes the focus of the grant program established in the bill to include both recruitment and retention, rather than just recruitment. It specifies that the groups receiving funds must be working on local economic development initiatives and removes as the stated purpose of the grant the hiring of a workforce recruiter, and instead allows these groups to use the funds to assist rural businesses in locating, recruiting and retaining qualified staff. The amendment also adds a definition of "rural regions of the State" to mean the counties of Aroostook, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington. The amendment requires that all funds awarded be matched by the group that receives the grant.

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## COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " to S.P. 200, L.D. 492

1	Finally, it changes the appropriation of funds to a one-time allocation of \$500,000 spread
2	out over 2 years, with \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2022-
3	23.
4	FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
5	(See attached)

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