



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 648

S.P. 265

In Senate, February 14, 2023

An Act to Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs Through Economic Incentives

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representatives: O'CONNELL of Brewer, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 419-E** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 419-E**

4 **FUND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICE STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS**

5 **§11681. Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness**

6 The Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness is established as a
7 nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and control of the Finance Authority of Maine. All
8 revenues credited to this fund must be distributed for the purpose of student loan
9 forgiveness based on need for residents of the State who are local and county law
10 enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and
11 public health workers. The Finance Authority of Maine shall award funds for the purpose
12 of student loan forgiveness and adopt rules for determining eligibility for and terms and
13 conditions of student loan forgiveness. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
14 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Interest earned on
15 amounts in the fund may be used for the costs of administering the distribution of funds for
16 the purpose of student loan forgiveness.

17 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
18 allocations are made.

19 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

20 **Finance Authority of Maine 0582**

21 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide no-interest
22 home mortgages to local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency
23 medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers while they are serving in
24 those positions.

25 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
26 All Other	\$5,000,000	\$0
27		
28 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$5,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

29 **Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness N421**

30 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan
31 Forgiveness.

32 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
33 All Other	\$5,000,000	\$0
34		
35 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$5,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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37 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

38 DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
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1	GENERAL FUND	\$10,000,000	\$0
2			
3	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$10,000,000	\$0

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SUMMARY

5 This bill establishes the Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness in
6 the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for student loan forgiveness for local and
7 county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons,
8 dispatchers and public health workers. It appropriates \$5,000,000 to the fund. It also
9 appropriates \$5,000,000 to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide no-interest home
10 mortgages to local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical
11 services persons, dispatchers and public health workers while they are serving in those
12 positions.