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Date: (Filing No. S-)

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 623, L.D. 1785, “An Act To Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs through Economic Incentives”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Create the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

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

CHAPTER 419-E

MAINE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKERS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

§11681. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- 1. Authority.** "Authority" means the Finance Authority of Maine.
- 2. Corrections officer.** "Corrections officer" has the same meaning as in Title 25, section 1611, subsection 1-B.
- 3. Emergency medical dispatcher.** "Emergency medical dispatcher" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 85-A, subsection 1, paragraph D.
- 4. Emergency medical services person.** "Emergency medical services person" means a person who routinely provides emergency medical treatment to the sick or injured and is licensed in accordance with Title 32, section 85, subsections 3 and 4.
- 5. Firefighter.** "Firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 25, section 1611, subsection 4.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 6. Fund. "Fund" means the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program
2 Fund established under section 11683.

3 7. Law enforcement officer. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in
4 Title 25, section 1611, subsection 5.

5 8. Program. "Program" means the Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment
6 Program established under section 11682, subsection 1.

7 9. Public safety worker. "Public safety worker" means a corrections officer,
8 emergency medical dispatcher, emergency medical services person, firefighter or law
9 enforcement officer.

10 **§11682. Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program**

11 1. Establishment. The Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program is
12 established within the authority for the purpose of attracting and retaining qualified public
13 safety workers. The authority shall administer the program.

14 2. Eligibility. To be considered eligible for loan repayment pursuant to subsection 4,
15 an applicant must, at a minimum:

16 A. Be a current resident of the State or become a resident of the State within 6 months
17 of being selected as a recipient under the program;

18 B. Be currently employed as a public safety worker within the State or become
19 employed as a public safety worker within the State within 6 months of being selected
20 as a recipient under the program; and

21 C. Possess an outstanding student loan.

22 3. Application. An application to the program must be made directly to the authority
23 at a time and in a format to be determined by the authority.

24 4. Maximum loan repayment. The maximum loan repayment amount available to a
25 recipient under the program is \$3,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years.

26 **§11683. Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund**

27 The Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund is established
28 within the authority as a nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund to carry out the
29 purposes of this chapter. The authority may receive, invest and expend on behalf of the
30 fund money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to money appropriated
31 or allocated by the State. Money in the fund must be used for the designated purposes of
32 the fund and for the payment of administrative costs incurred by the authority for the
33 operation of the program. Any unexpended balance in the fund carries forward for
34 continued use under this chapter.

35 **§11684. Rules**

36 The authority shall establish rules necessary to implement this chapter. Rules adopted
37 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
38 subchapter 2-A.

39 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
40 allocations are made.

41 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

1 **Maine Public Safety Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund N416**

2 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide student
3 loan repayment of up to \$3,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years per recipient to public
4 safety workers who live and work in the State.

5 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
6 All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
7		
8 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

9

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

12

SUMMARY

13 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes the Maine Public Safety
14 Workers Loan Repayment Program in the Finance Authority of Maine. The program
15 provides student loan repayment to public safety workers who live and work in the State.
16 Under the program, the authority pays up to \$3,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years of
17 a recipient’s outstanding loan balance. The amendment establishes the Maine Public Safety
18 Workers Loan Repayment Program Fund for the program and appropriates a one-time
19 amount of \$2,000,000 to the fund.

20

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

21

(See attached)