

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Provide Maine Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grants

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13090-M is enacted to read:

§ 13090-M. Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grant Program

1. Program established. The Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grant Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Office of Tourism to promote tourism and industry in the State and assist in job creation through grants for feature film projects that promote the State's natural resources and industries. For purposes of this section, "feature film" means a full-length movie with a running time of 40 minutes or longer that is made for distribution in theaters as the main attraction of the screening.

2. Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grants Fund. The Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grants Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the Office of Tourism as a nonlapsing, dedicated account.

3. Revenue sources. The fund receives money deposited by the Treasurer of State and any other gift, grant or other source of revenue deposited for use pursuant to this section.

4. Fund operation; eligible projects. The Office of Tourism shall use the fund to provide grants of up to \$500,000 for eligible feature film projects, not to exceed 40% of the feature film's production budget, to be paid upon the feature film's completion. Money in the fund may be provided initially as a loan to eligible feature film projects under the program during preproduction and production of the feature film. The feature film project must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Office of Tourism that the following criteria have been met upon completion of the feature film in order to receive the grant funds:

- A. The feature film must have a production budget over \$250,000;
- B. The feature film must feature at least one primary State industry;
- C. At least 75% of the feature film project must include on-location filming in the State;
- D. At least 75% of the feature film's story must be set in the State; and
- E. At least 25% of the feature film must showcase outdoor locations in the State.

5. Access to film footage. A feature film project that accepts grant funds pursuant to this section must provide the Office of Tourism with access to all film footage and the authority to use the footage in state tourism promotion. The feature film project must also provide the Office of Tourism with 30-second or 60-second edited film footage for state tourism promotion activities.

6. Procedures. The Office of Tourism may adopt routine technical rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A by which the program is implemented.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grant Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism to promote Maine tourism and industry and assist in job creation through grants for feature film projects that promote Maine's natural resources and industries. The program will provide grants from the Tourism and Industry Collaborative Film Grants Fund of up to \$500,000 for eligible feature film projects, not to exceed 40% of the feature film's production budget, to be paid upon the feature film's completion. The bill provides that money in the fund may be distributed to eligible feature film projects initially as a loan during preproduction and production of the feature film. The bill requires that, in order to receive grant funds upon completion, the feature film project must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Office of Tourism that the feature film has a production budget over \$250,000, features at least one primary Maine industry, tells a story that is set in Maine for at least 75% of the film and features outdoor locations in Maine for at least 25% of the film. The feature film project must also have filmed on location in Maine for at least 75% of the film. The bill requires a feature film project to provide film footage for state tourism promotion activities.