

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 Create the Aging in Place Program

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13073-C is enacted to read:

§ 13073-C. Aging in Place Program

1. Program established; administration. The Aging in Place Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the department to assist low-income seniors with aging in place. The program facilitates housing improvements that allow low-income seniors to remain in their homes safely, independently and comfortably as they age. The housing improvements include but are not limited to weatherization and improvements to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards, replace substandard fixtures and hardware and reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs. All funds received for this program must be deposited into the Aging in Place Fund established by subsection 3.

2. Eligibility. Seniors eligible for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program are eligible for assistance under this program.

3. Aging in Place Fund created. The Aging in Place Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established to provide funding for the aging in place of low-income seniors. The fund is a dedicated, nonlapsing fund, and all revenues deposited in the fund remain in the fund and must be disbursed in accordance with this section.

4. Distribution of the fund. The department shall disburse money from the fund to a statewide network that provides weatherization and home repair services, including but not limited to repairs to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards, to replace substandard fixtures and hardware and to reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs, to low-income residents.

5. Reporting. A recipient of money from the fund shall report annually to the department on the use of the money, including the number of houses improved, the number of residents in those houses and the amounts of other funds leveraged.

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

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Aging in Place Program

Initiative: Appropriates funds for the statewide Aging in Place Program.

GENERAL FUND

2013-14

2014-15

SP0473, LD 1354, item 1, 126th Maine State Legislature
An Act To Create the Aging in Place Program

All Other	\$750,000	\$750,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<hr/> \$750,000	<hr/> \$750,000

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Aging in Place Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development to assist low-income seniors with aging in place, including assisting low-income seniors to remain in their homes. It also establishes the Aging in Place Fund and appropriates money to the fund. The department is required to disburse money from the fund to a statewide network that provides weatherization and home repair services, including but not limited to repairs to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards, to replace substandard fixtures and hardware and to reduce ongoing maintenance and heating costs, to low-income residents.