**An Act To Create a Grant Program To Promote Innovation in Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives**

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

**Sec.** **1. 5 MRSA §13056-I** is enacted to read:

**§****13056-I.** **Maine Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives Program**

**1.** **Program established.** The Maine Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the department to provide grants to municipalities for technology and innovation projects that further the goals of the climate action plan adopted under Title 38, section 577. Grants to any municipality under the program are limited to $50,000 each during any state budget biennium.

**2.** **Fund established.** The Maine Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund within the department.

**3.** **Criteria; applications.** The department shall solicit applications from municipalities for grants from the fund through a competitive application process established by the department by rule. The process must require that an application include, at a minimum:

A. A description of a proposed technology and innovation project that will further the goals of the climate action plan adopted under Title 38, section 577;

B. Data that demonstrates that the proposed project will reduce carbon emissions; and

C. A statement of project readiness.

**4.** **Rulemaking.** Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the Maine Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives Program for the purpose of providing competitive grants for towns and cities to help fund technology and innovation projects that will reduce carbon emissions and that are in line with Maine's climate action plan.