



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1412

S.P. 490

In Senate, April 11, 2017

**An Act To Increase Access to Workforce Development Programs for
New Maine Residents**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative FECTION of Biddeford and
Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representatives: DENNO of Cumberland, GOLDEN of
Lewiston, HAMANN of South Portland, MADIGAN of Waterville, PARKER of South
Berwick, PERRY of Calais.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §20** is enacted to read:

3 **§20. Immigrant Workforce Development Fund**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Fund" means the Immigrant Workforce Development Fund established in
7 subsection 2.

8 B. "Ethnicity-based community organization" means an organization in this State
9 that provides services to legal immigrants and refugees, including but not limited to:

- 10 (1) Helping with naturalization applications;
- 11 (2) Assisting with social and cultural adjustment;
- 12 (3) English language skills classes for adults and youth;
- 13 (4) Citizenship classes;
- 14 (5) Financial literacy classes for adults and youth;
- 15 (6) Parenting classes;
- 16 (7) Interpretation services;
- 17 (8) Assistance with reading documents; and
- 18 (9) Training and supporting adults and youth seeking employment.

19 **2. Establishment.** The Immigrant Workforce Development Fund is established to
20 provide competitive grants to ethnicity-based community organizations to fund programs
21 and services to help legal immigrants and refugees become economically self-sufficient.

22 **3. Qualification for grants.** An ethnicity-based community organization may apply
23 for a grant under this section using forms and procedures determined by the
24 commissioner. The commissioner shall adopt rules for the standards, approval and
25 administration of the fund, including the establishment of grant award requirements and
26 specifications and procedures for the application and distribution of available funds.
27 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined by Title
28 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

29 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
30 allocations are made.

31 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

32 Initiative: Provides funding for the Immigrant Workforce Development Fund to provide
33 services to legal immigrants and refugees.

34

1	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
2	All Other	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$5,000,000</u>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This bill establishes and funds the Immigrant Workforce Development Fund, which
7 provides competitive grants to ethnicity-based community organizations to fund
8 programs and services to help legal immigrants and refugees become economically
9 self-sufficient.