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Date: (Filing No. H- )

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to H.P. 1482, L.D. 1995, “An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023”

Amend the amendment in Part L by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. L-2. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2022, the State Controller shall transfer \$629,300,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of providing payments to help eligible residents of the State to recover from economic effects of the pandemic related to coronavirus disease 2019, referred to in this Part as "the COVID-19 pandemic." At the close of fiscal year 2023-24, amounts remaining in the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account must be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532.'

Amend the amendment in Part L by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. L-3. Climate Change Initiatives Fund Program established; transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus.** The Department of Environmental Protection shall establish the Climate Change Initiatives Fund Program to provide funding for initiatives enacted by the Legislature for the purpose of reducing the effect of climate change. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2022, the State Controller shall transfer \$100,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection, Climate Change Initiatives Fund Program Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of funding the Climate Change Initiatives Fund Program. The department, beginning October 1, 2022 and every 3 months thereafter, shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment matters regarding the use of the funds in the account until all funds have been expended.'

**HOUSE AMENDMENT**

1 Amend the amendment in Part L by inserting after section 3 the following:

2 **'Sec. L-4. COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program established.** The  
3 COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program is established to help residents of the State  
4 respond to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and enable residents of the  
5 State to combat rising costs due to pandemic-induced inflation and supply chain effects.

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

8 A. "Assessor" means the State Tax Assessor.

9 B. "Eligible resident of the State" means an individual who:

10 (1) Filed, by October 31, 2022, a Maine income tax return as a full-year resident  
11 of the State for the tax year;

12 (2) Has federal adjusted gross income for the tax year of less than:

13 (a) For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses permitted  
14 to file a joint return, \$150,000;

15 (b) For an individual filing as a head of household, \$100,000;

16 (c) For a single individual, \$75,000; or

17 (d) For a married individual filing a separate return, \$75,000; and

18 (3) May not be claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return for the tax  
19 year.

20 C. "Fund" means the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program Fund Other Special  
21 Revenue Funds account established by the State Controller pursuant to section 1.

22 D. "Relief payment" means the relief payment determined pursuant to subsection 2.

23 E. "Tax year" means a tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2021 but not later than  
24 December 31, 2021.

25 Any other terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in a comparable  
26 context in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, Part 8 relating to Maine income taxes,  
27 unless different meanings are clearly required.

28 **2. COVID pandemic relief payment.** The assessor shall make relief payments in  
29 accordance with this subsection.

30 A. The assessor shall identify each eligible resident of the State.

31 B. Beginning as soon as administratively feasible but not later than December 31, 2022,  
32 the assessor shall make a relief payment of \$850 to each eligible resident of the State.  
33 Funds for the relief payments must come from the fund and, notwithstanding any law  
34 to the contrary, are not subject to setoff to debts owed to agencies of the State.

35 C. An individual who has not received a relief payment under paragraph B may provide  
36 documentation to the assessor by March 31, 2023 showing that the individual is an  
37 eligible resident of the State. The assessor shall review the documentation, determine  
38 if the individual is an eligible resident of the State and notify the individual of any  
39 adverse determination. This determination is final agency action not reviewable  
40 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 151.

41 D. By June 30, 2023, the assessor shall make a relief payment of \$850 to each eligible  
42 resident of the State determined eligible pursuant to paragraph C. Funds for the relief

1 payments must come from the fund and, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, are  
2 not subject to setoff to debts owed to agencies of the State.'

3 Amend the amendment in Part L by inserting after section 5 the following:

4 '**Sec. L-6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
5 allocations are made.

6 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
7 **Climate Change Initiatives Fund N418**

8 Initiative: Provides a baseline allocation for the new Climate Change Initiatives Fund  
9 Program.

10	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
11	All Other	\$500	\$500
12			
13	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

14 '

15 Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
16 section number to read consecutively.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This amendment amends Part L to:

19 1. Reduce by \$100,000,000 the transfer to the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment  
20 Program Fund;

21 2. Decrease the maximum income thresholds for the COVID Pandemic Relief  
22 Payment Program relief payment for eligible residents filing as single or married filing  
23 separately from \$100,000 to \$75,000; for heads of household from \$150,000 to \$100,000;  
24 and for married filing jointly from \$200,000 to \$150,000; and

25 3. Require the Department of Environmental Protection to establish the Climate  
26 Change Initiatives Fund Program for the purpose of funding initiatives enacted by the  
27 Legislature to reduce the effect of climate change. This amendment also requires the  
28 transfer of \$100,000,000 from the General Fund to the Climate Change Initiatives Fund  
29 Program Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Environmental  
30 Protection to be used to fund the Climate Change Initiatives Fund Program.

31 **SPONSORED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

32 **(Representative WARREN, S.)**

33 **TOWN: Scarborough**