

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Date: May 10, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
From: Rachel Olson, Legislative Analyst
Re: LD 1641, An Act To Ensure Continued Access to Film and Stage Theaters and Music Venues
(Daughtry)

Bill Summary

This bill creates a fund for the purpose of providing grants to film and stage theaters and music venues that have suffered economically due to restrictions placed on their operation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Testimony:

Proponents: Senator Daughtry, sponsor; J. Andrew Cashman, Preti Flaherty representing the Theatre Owners of New England; Carla Pugliese, the Cultural Alliance of Maine/Maine Association of Nonprofits; Nick Turner;

Opponents: None

Neither for nor against: Kate Foye, DECD; Alison Sucy, Maine Tourism Association;

Potential Issues or Technical Problems:

Sec. 1, paragraph 3, subparagraph B, line 5 on page 2 uses “and” instead of “or” – as it is written, it means a person must operate all three types of venue (movie, stage, and music). It should read “or” if the intent is to only have to operate one of the three possibly types of venues.

Additional Information:

The [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant \(SVOG\) program](#)

Possible Amendments:

The sponsor recommended amending the bill to a resolve to commit the spending of American Rescue Plan funds to these types of businesses. This idea was supported by DECD and the Maine Tourism Association.

Individuals expressed support for the concept, but want to make sure the DECD has the flexibility to create grant programs that address this industry and others, such as tourism, in order to best meets the needs of businesses in this State and to allow for flexibility in using federal funds, for which formal guidance has yet to be released.

Fiscal Impact: Not Yet Determined.