

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4014 is enacted to read:

§4014. Referral for housing assistance. Upon identifying a public school student as a homeless child or youth as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq., a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq. shall make a referral to the Maine State Housing Authority for ~~temporary~~ housing assistance for the student and the student's family under Title 30-A, section ~~4762-4763.~~

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 3-C is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3-C

HOMELESS STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

§ 4763. Homeless Student Assistance Program

1. Program established. A homeless student assistance program, referred to in this section as “the program,” is established within the Maine State Housing Authority. The purpose of the program is to assist eligible students and families with accessing housing assistance programs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 4014.

2. Eligibility. The Maine State Housing Authority shall upon referral by a local educational agency liaison to the Maine State Housing Authority assist the local educational agency liaison with accessing housing assistance programs for eligible students and families pursuant to Title 20-A, section 4014.

3. Funding. A maximum of \$2 million in funding for the program must be allocated to the fund established in section 4764 from funds provided to the State by the Federal Government pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law No. 117-2, to the extent the funds are eligible to be used for this purpose in accordance with federal law and regulations.

4. Rules. The Maine State Housing Authority shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§ 4764. Homeless Student Assistance Program Fund

The homeless student assistance program fund, referred to as “the fund,” is established as a nonlapsing fund within the Maine State Housing Authority. The Maine State Housing Authority may apply money in the fund for purposes authorized by this subchapter.

Rep. Brennan sponsor amendment
LD 773

Sec. 3. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

(TO BE COMPLETED BY OFPR)

General Fund:

FY 21-22

\$1,000,000

FY 22-23

\$1,000,000

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment creates the homeless student assistance program and homeless student assistance fund within the Maine State Housing Authority. It requires the Maine State Housing Authority to work with a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness to access housing assistance programs.