

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

H.P. 666 - L.D. 910

An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement

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

Sec. 1. Transfer from Liquor Operation Revenue Fund. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6054, subsection 4, or any other provision of law to the contrary, and in addition to any amount authorized to be transferred in fiscal years 2021-22 or 2022-23, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank shall transfer \$30,000,000 during fiscal year 2021-22 and \$56,000,000 during fiscal year 2022-23 from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund, established in Title 30-A, section 6054, subsection 1, to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Sec. 2. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus to Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2022, the State Controller shall transfer \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of a one-time, supplemental payment for the unanticipated fiscal and operational costs to the general assistance program during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department shall distribute funds under this section proportionally to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State based on the general assistance costs incurred by that municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during fiscal year 2020-21. A municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State may use funds received under this section to offset potential reductions in federal funding in fiscal year 2022-23, potential reductions in funding related to the end of the public health emergency and other unanticipated costs incurred by the municipality or federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department shall distribute funds under this section as a lump-sum distribution to each municipality and federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State.

Sec. 3. Review of general assistance program. The Department of Health and Human Services shall review long-term improvements to the general assistance program.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns 0130

Initiative: Provides one-time allocation for supplemental payments to municipalities for the unanticipated fiscal and operational costs of the general assistance program related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$10,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$10,000,000</u>