



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1115

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H.P. 711

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

### **An Act Regarding Economic Development Funds for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes**

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Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and  
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, LANDRY of Farmington, PARRY of Arundel, Senators:  
BRENNER of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, DUSON of Cumberland, LAWRENCE of  
York, POULIOT of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13073, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 534, Pt. A, §§17 and  
3 19, is amended to read:

4 **4. Legislative allocation of fund required.** The Department of Economic and  
5 Community Development shall submit to the Legislature, through the budget process as  
6 required by chapter 149, its recommendations for disbursement from the fund. The  
7 recommendations must ensure that 10% of the available funds is provided on an equitable  
8 basis to the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State.

9 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13073, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 534, Pt. A, §§17 and  
10 19, is amended to read:

11 **5. Expenditures from fund.** Upon approval of the allocation by the Legislature and  
12 approval of the allotment by the Governor, the State Controller shall authorize expenditures  
13 from the fund as approved by the department for the following purposes:

- 14 A. Administrative expenses related to the fund;
- 15 B. Grants to cities and towns under the fund; ~~and~~
- 16 C. Grants related to the fund and to other public and private organizations; and
- 17 D. Grants to federally recognized Indian tribes in this State in accordance with  
18 subsection 4.

19 **Sec. 3. New Markets Tax Credit Program access.** The Department of  
20 Economic and Community Development shall develop, in consultation with federally  
21 recognized Indian tribes in this State, a plan for ensuring those tribes have equitable access  
22 to the New Markets Tax Credit Program administered through the United States  
23 Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill:

26 1. Provides for 10% of the available funds in the Community Development Block  
27 Grant Program to be provided on an equitable basis to the federally recognized Indian tribes  
28 in this State; and

29 2. Directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop, in  
30 consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, a plan for ensuring those  
31 tribes have equitable access to the New Markets Tax Credit Program administered through  
32 the United States Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial  
33 Institutions Fund.