

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 929 - L.D. 1269

An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4741, sub-§18, as amended by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. B, §3, is further amended to read:

18. State designee for homeless programs. The Maine State Housing Authority is designated the coordinating agency for the State for programs dealing with homeless persons and may apply for, receive, distribute and administer federal, state and other funds on behalf of the State for homeless programs including, without limitation, the Emergency Community Services Homeless Grant Program and the programs authorized pursuant to the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Public Law 100-77, (1987), as amended; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4741, sub-§19, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. B, §4, is amended to read:

19. State designee for National Housing Trust Fund. The Maine State Housing Authority is designated as the entity to receive and allocate funds from the National Housing Trust Fund established by the federal Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4741, sub-§20 is enacted to read:

20. Affirmatively further fair housing. The Maine State Housing Authority shall, to the extent consistent with federal law, ensure that any Maine State Housing Authority funding or any state or local funding is used in a manner that will affirmatively further fair housing in this State. For the purposes of this subsection, "affirmatively further fair housing" means to engage actively in efforts to address barriers to and create opportunities for full and equal access to housing without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status or receipt of public assistance.

Sec. 4. Report to the Legislature. The Maine State Housing Authority shall develop a plan to ensure public funds are used to affirmatively further fair housing in this State in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4741, subsection

20 and report the development of that plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing by January 15, 2022. The report must include data reported by municipal housing authorities to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development on affirmatively furthering fair housing and other reports required to be filed by municipal housing authorities. The Maine State Housing Authority shall recommend in its report a method by which municipal housing authorities may annually submit any reports and data submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.