An Act to Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs Through Economic Incentives

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

Presented by Senator BALDACCIO of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representatives: O'CONNELL of Brewer, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 419-E is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 419-E

FUND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICE STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

§11681. Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness

The Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness is established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and control of the Finance Authority of Maine. All revenues credited to this fund must be distributed for the purpose of student loan forgiveness based on need for residents of the State who are local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers. The Finance Authority of Maine shall award funds for the purpose of student loan forgiveness and adopt rules for determining eligibility for and terms and conditions of student loan forgiveness. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Interest earned on amounts in the fund may be used for the costs of administering the distribution of funds for the purpose of student loan forgiveness.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Finance Authority of Maine 0582

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide no-interest home mortgages to local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers while they are serving in those positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL FUND</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2024-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL FUND TOTAL $5,000,000 $0

Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness N421

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL FUND</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2024-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL FUND TOTAL $5,000,000 $0

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE DEPARTMENT TOTALS 2023-24 2024-25
This bill establishes the Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness in the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for student loan forgiveness for local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers. It appropriates $5,000,000 to the fund. It also appropriates $5,000,000 to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide no-interest home mortgages to local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers while they are serving in those positions.