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Legislative Document

No. 654

H.P. 481

House of Representatives, March 3, 2021

An Act To Create a 24-hour Shelter Capital Project Funding Program

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 1, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and
Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CUDDY of Winterport,
KESSLER of South Portland, MORALES of South Portland, SACHS of Freeport,
SYLVESTER of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 14** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 14**

4 **TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR SHELTER CAPITAL PROJECT PROGRAM**

5 **§4994-A. Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project program**

6 **1. Program established.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish and
7 administer the Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project program to support new
8 construction or expansion of emergency 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing
9 homelessness. New construction and expansion projects funded by the program must
10 address an increase in the need for shelter capacity in the region since the construction, or
11 expansion, of an existing shelter or shelters in the region or since the start of the outbreak
12 of the coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, or both. The program must allow the
13 purchase of land and improvements to land as allowable costs. For the purposes of this
14 section, "24-hour shelter" means a shelter that provides access to shelter and intake services
15 24 hours per day to persons experiencing homelessness.

16 **2. Fund established.** The Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project Program Fund is
17 established within the Maine State Housing Authority. The Maine State Housing Authority
18 may apply money in the fund for purposes authorized by this subchapter.

19 **3. Rules.** The Maine State Housing Authority may adopt rules to implement this
20 section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in
21 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

22 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
23 allocations are made.

24 **HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

25 **Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project Program Fund**

26 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to establish and implement the Twenty-four-hour
27 Shelter Capital Project program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A,
28 chapter 201, subchapter 14. This funding is supplemental to funding for the Maine State
29 Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program and is to be
30 delivered in accordance with applicable funding formulas.

31 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
32 All Other	\$3,000,000	\$0
33		
34 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$3,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
35		

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill establishes the Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project program within the
38 Maine State Housing Authority to support new construction or expansion of emergency

1 24-hour shelters for persons experiencing homelessness. New construction and expansion
2 projects funded by the program must address an increase in the need for shelter capacity in
3 the region since the construction, or expansion, of an existing shelter or shelters in the
4 region or since the start of the outbreak of COVID-19 or both. The bill includes a one-time
5 General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to the Maine State
6 Housing Authority to fund the program. This bill specifies that the funding is supplemental
7 to funding for the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing
8 assistance program.