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FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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.

Robert B. Hunt

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.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER 14

TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR SHELTER CAPITAL PROJECT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Twenty-four-hour Shelter Capital Project Program Fund

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

GENERAL FUND	**2021-22**	**2022-23**
All Other	$3,000,000	$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	$3,000,000	$0

SUMMARY

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

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