



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1555

H.P. 1160

House of Representatives, April 22, 2021

An Act To Fund Broadband Internet Infrastructure for Marginalized Groups in the State

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 20, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft,
GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, KESSLER of South Portland, Senators: LAWRENCE of York,
VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of Broadband Development Z245

Initiative: Appropriates funds to the ConnectMaine Authority for the provision of broadband Internet infrastructure to benefit marginalized groups, including historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal communities, individuals who were formerly incarcerated or are unhoused, individuals in substance use disorder recovery and low-income individuals. The ConnectMaine Authority shall consult with organizations representing these marginalized groups when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$15,000,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,000,000	\$0

SUMMARY

This bill appropriates \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the ConnectMaine Authority for the provision of broadband Internet infrastructure to benefit marginalized groups. The ConnectMaine Authority is directed to consult with organizations representing marginalized groups, including historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal communities, individuals who were formerly incarcerated or are unhoused, individuals in substance use disorder recovery and low-income individuals, when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.