



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2102

H.P. 1417

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

**An Act to Clarify and Strengthen the Government Shutdown Loan
Guarantee Program**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

R. B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

Cosponsored by President DAUGTRY of Cumberland and

Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot.

1 **Emergency preamble.** **Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas**, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day
4 period in order to provide protection as soon as possible to employees who are not being
5 paid during a government shutdown; and

6 **Whereas**, this protection for these employees is necessary to prevent missed rent and
7 mortgage payments, food insecurity and the loss of health care coverage; and

8 **Whereas**, agencies responsible for administering the Government Shutdown Loan
9 Guarantee Program need immediate authority to adjust staffing and communicate with
10 participating credit unions and financial institutions in order to prevent confusion and
11 inefficiency; and

12 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
13 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
14 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
15 therefore,

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

17 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1100-JJ, sub-§1, ¶C** is enacted to read:

18 **C. The eligibility of an affected employee is not dependent on:**

19 (1) The affected employee applying for unemployment compensation benefits;

20 (2) A credit check;

21 (3) The membership of the affected employee at a credit union or the status of the
22 affected employee as a customer of a financial institution to which the affected
23 employee is applying for a loan; or

24 (4) The ability of the affected employee to appear in person, as long as the affected
25 employee can prove that the affected employee is a resident of this State and a
26 member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard who is
27 stationed outside of this State.

28 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1100-LL, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 494, §2, is
29 repealed.

30 **Sec. 3. Transfer.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State
31 Controller shall transfer \$250,000 from the Department of Professional and Financial
32 Regulation, Bureau of Financial Institutions, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the
33 Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program Fund, established within the Office of the
34 Treasurer of State pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 160, no later
35 than 14 days following the effective date of this Act to be used to guarantee the repayment
36 of loans made by an eligible financial institution to an eligible affected employee pursuant
37 to Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter 15.

38 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
39 allocations are made.

40 **TREASURER OF STATE, OFFICE OF**

1 **Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program Fund Z433**

2 Initiative: Provides one-time allocation of \$250,000 to the Government Shutdown Loan
3 Guarantee Program Fund to assist with guaranteeing repayment of a portion of loans made
4 by eligible financial institutions and credit unions to federal or state employees affected by
5 government shutdowns.

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$250,000 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$250,000 | \$0 |

10 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
11 takes effect when approved.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill amends the laws governing the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee
14 Program by amending the provisions regarding eligibility for loans and removing language
15 that provides that if the amount expended for loan guarantee payments equals or exceeds
16 10% of the total of all loans issued, the Finance Authority of Maine must stop approving
17 claims and notify the Treasurer of State and each eligible financial institution of the total
18 amount of loan guarantee payments made and that the authority has ceased honoring loan
19 claims. It also allocates \$250,000 to the program.