



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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Legislative Document

No. 2102

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H.P. 1417

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

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

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.  
Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY 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.

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